

The Telegraph



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Standout looks at MET Gala 2025 P2



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32 PAGES

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025 ₹ 6.00; with 8 pages Telekids ₹ 8.00

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IN BRIEF

India hits Pak terror bases

NEW DELHI: The Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday as retaliation for the Pahalgaon terror attack, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Nine sites were targeted. The defence ministry said the actions were "focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature". No Pakistani military facilities were targeted, the ministry added. India said "considerable restraint" had been demonstrated "in selection of targets and method of execution". Pakistan Army's DG, ISPR, said: "Let me say it unequivocally, Pakistan will respond to this at a time and place of its own choosing." All Pakistan Air Force jets are airborne, the DG said, adding that the strike was from Indian airspace. "Justice is served," the Indian Army said.

Trump tariff claim

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that India has agreed to reduce tariffs on American imports to "nothing", asserting that the decision was made solely because of him. India has not officially announced any such decision.

IPL MOMENT

Jasprit Bumrah produced a superb two-over spell during which he took two wickets but it wasn't enough as Gujarat Titans pulled off a three-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians on Tuesday. The Titans had everything in their control but Bumrah's two wickets after the rain break upset their momentum. They, however, came back to knock off the 15 needed off the 19th over to reach the DLS target of 147.

Exercise in Border Belligerence

Mock drills across country today

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Union home secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday chaired a meeting with several high-ranking officials and reviewed preparations to strengthen civil defence mechanisms a day ahead of the nationwide mock drills amid escalating tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgaon terror attack.

On Wednesday, the Indian Air Force will also hold "pre-planned, routine" military drills in Rajasthan along the international border with Pakistan. Sources said a Notice to Airman, had been issued by the airforce for May 7 and 8. Scheduled to begin at 9.30pm, the drills will continue for eight hours, during which flight operations at airports close to the border would be suspended.

The home ministry had on Monday announced that mock drills — the first since the 1971 war — would be conducted at 244 designated civil defence districts across the country.

The development comes at a time India is weighing its options to avenge the Pahalgaon massacre and Pakistan has warned of a "swift and no-holds-barred response". Sources said Mohan convened Tuesday's meeting to assess and coordinate civil defence preparedness with special focus on 100 of the 244 locations that had been identified as "highly sensitive".

Sources said the sensitive sites were located in bordering areas. The meeting was also attended by the chief secretaries of various states.

A list of vital installations codified under the Civil Defence Rules, 1968, includes defence and paramilitary installations, hospitals and installations of strategic importance.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Civil defence personnel in Lucknow on Tuesday during a rehearsal for Wednesday's mock drill. (PTI)

The Union home ministry has asked states to conduct civil defence mock drills on Wednesday amid heightened tensions with Pakistan. The exercise will be conducted across the 244 designated civil defence districts nationwide down to the village level. The drill aims to assess and enhance the readiness of civil defence mechanisms across all states and Union Territories. Government sources said such a large-scale mock drill would be taking place for the first time since the 1971 Bangladesh war.

What is a civil defence mock drill?

It is an exercise to identify overall strengths, weaknesses and gaps while responding to emergencies like war or aerial strikes or any kind of hostile attack from air, land and sea.

What will happen during the mock drill?

Sources said the drills would be conducted in the designated civil defence districts in coordination with state and local authorities. The public may experience brief power outages, blackout simulations, loud sirens, mobile signal disruptions and limited access to certain public spaces. Temporary traffic diversions may also occur in some areas where police and paramilitary troops are likely to stage simulations of war-like exercises.

The drills will focus on how to respond to air raid sirens and blackout situations. The sources said people would be instructed to keep medical kits with extra supplies, torches and candles at home

during the drills.

Objectives of the mock drill according to the ministry

- Assessing the effectiveness of air raid warning sirens
- Operational readiness/hotline/radio communication links with the air force
- Training of civilians, students and others on the civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of hostile attacks
- Provisioning for crash bailout measures and assessing their implementation
- Provisioning for early camouflage of vital plants/ installations
- Verifying the activation and response of civil defence services, including warden services, firefighting, rescue operations and department management
- Evaluating the preparedness of evacuation plans and their execution

Compiled by Anam Ahmed Siddiqui

BENGAL SITES

Civil defence districts in Bengal where mock drills will be held on Wednesday, as listed by the defence ministry

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cooch Behar | 17. Islampur |
| 2. Darjeeling | 18. Digha |
| 3. Jalpaiguri | 19. Medinipur |
| 4. Malda | 20. Murshidabad |
| 5. Siliguri | 21. Kailashpur |
| 6. Greater Calcutta | 22. Jharkhand |
| 7. Durgapur | 23. Kumaon |
| 8. Haldia | 24. Kolaghat |
| 9. Hoshinara | 25. Burdwan |
| 10. Kharagpur | 26. Birbhum |
| 11. Bampur-Asansol | 27. East Midnapore |
| 12. Farakka-Khejuriaghat | 28. West Midnapore |
| 13. Chittaranjan | 29. Howrah |
| 14. Balurghat | 30. Hooghly |
| 15. Alipurdwar | 31. Murshidabad |
| 16. Raiganj | |

'Sensitive' state gears for exigency

PRANESH SARKAR

Calcutta: The government in "sensitive" Bengal will conduct a large-scale emergency preparedness mock drill across 17 districts starting Wednesday.

The week-long drill, involving multiple departments, is being organised after the Centre directed all states to assess their readiness to handle emergencies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Modi: India's waters will flow in India's favour

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that India's waters would flow in the country's favour, obliquely referring to his government's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance after the Pahalgaon terror attack.

"Ab Bharat ka paani Bharat ke haq mein bahega, Bharat ke haq mein rukega aur Bharat ke hi haq mein dega (Now India's waters will flow in India's favour, and will stay in India's favour and will be used for India only)," Modi said while addressing the AFP Network India at 360 Summit in Delhi.

Though Modi did not directly refer to the water treaty being put in abeyance as part of a series of diplomatic pre-



Modi at the AFP Network India at 360 Summit on Tuesday. (Ganendranil YouTube via PTI)

backs against Pakistan after the Pahalgaon carnage, he clearly seemed to be referring to it. "These days, there is a lot of discussion in the media over water," he remarked with a smile, appearing to refer to India's decision to stop sharing river water with Pakistan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

STYLED BY SABYA, SRK TAKES FASHION MECCA CROWN

Bling King is all that glitters at Gala



MET MAGICIAN: Shah Rukh Khan attends the 2025 Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Getty Images, courtesy Sabyaachi Mukherjee)

SMITA ROY CHOWDHURY AND SANJALI BRAHMA

Shah Rukh Khan's long-awaited debut on the MET Gala stage lived up to every bit of the expectations that had built up over since the news of the superstar's appearance at global fashion's biggest stage broke.

The anticipation was even higher since King Khan was to be dressed by none other than Calcutta designer Sabyaachi Mukherjee, a favourite of Indian stars for their global appearances.

On Monday night (Tuesday morning in India), New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's teal carpet saw Khan arrive in his signature flamboyant style, courtesy of Mukherjee, in a look celebrating heritage and maximalist elegance. A black-and-white ensemble in the making — equal parts red carpet dazzle and cultural nod.

The theme for this year's MET Gala exhibition was "Superficial: Tailoring Black

Style" and the dress code was "Tailored For You".

Khan's look was a masterclass in maximalist swag — a floor-length, elongated coat in Tasmanian superfine wool with monogrammed Japanese horn buttons. The hand-carved, gold-embossed coat featured a peak collar and wide lapels, paired with a crepe de chine silk shirt and tailored superfine wool trousers.

The pièce de résistance? A pleated silk cummerbund and the Bengal Tiger Head Cane — an 18k gold work of art adorned with tortoiseshell, sapphires and diamonds. Custom jewellery from Sabyaachi High Jewellery — layered necklaces bearing his initials to a diamond-encrusted "K" (for King Khan) — lent the look with personal symbolism.

Khan told a fashion magazine during the carpet call: "Two little kids (Suhani, Aryan and AbRam) who are very excited about the MET."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

In Loving Memory of



MOU ROYCHOWDHURY

March 12, 1971 – May 7, 2024
Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group

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Maharashtra poll deadline

R. BALAJI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Maharashtra state election commission (SEC) to complete polls to 276 local bodies within four months.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kottaswar Singh asked the SEC to issue the necessary notification within four weeks, adding that the elections would be based on the reservation policy that existed before the 2022 report submitted by the Santhia Commission, headed by former chief secretary Jagan Kumar Santhia.

It said the outcome of the elections would be subject to the apex court's decision on pending petitions challenging the commission's report that had recommended 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs. Following multiple petitions against the 27 per cent

OBC quota recommended by the Santhia panel, the apex court had in 2022 reserved the SEC from notifying the local body polls until the top court examined the validity of the recommendations.

Since then, elections to gram panchayats, zilla parishad and other local bodies have not been held in the state.

When the matter came up for consideration on Tuesday, the bench said bureaucrats could not be allowed to occupy key positions in local bodies as it would defeat the very purpose of the constitutional mandate of having democracy at the grassroots level.

Justice Kant, heading the bench, said: "Why can't elections be held as per the earlier position without prejudice to the outcome of the petitions?" Today, all bureaucrats are

occupying all the municipal corporations and panchayats and are taking major policy decisions. Because of all this litigation, the democratic process has been stalled... Officials have no accountability."

Solicitor-general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Maharashtra government, and senior advocate Indira Jaising, representing some of the petitioners, agreed with the court's view that bureaucrats were running the municipalities and elections would facilitate the return of the political leadership.

Jaising pointed out that if the Santhia commission report was accepted, it would result in the denuclearisation of 34,000 posts.

The bench said it was only concerned with the conduct of the polls. It said disputes regarding the inclusion or exclusion of people in or from the list of candidates might not be a major issue as the affected persons could always contest the next polls.

"After all, it is an election for a particular tenure," the bench observed.

FIR query on student suicides

R. BALAJI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought details from authorities on whether FIRs had been registered in connection with the alleged suicides of students at IIT Kharagpur and NEET Kota.

A bench of Justice J.E. Pavlovskis and Justice R. Mahadon passed the direction to examine whether its March 24 judgment laying down a law making registration of FIRs mandatory in all suicide or suspicious death cases of students in higher educa-

tional institutions had been complied with.

The bench on Tuesday passed the direction while dealing with the compliance report filed by the registry with regard to the directive of the bench to the Union government to deposit a sum of ₹20 lakh as an outlay for the initial operations of the national task force constituted by the top court on March 24. It is to be headed by Justice Ravindra Bhat, a former judge of the Supreme Court, and is mandated to identify the causes for such suicides, particularly in high-

er educational institutions like IITs and IIMs.

"We take this opportunity to take notice of two more unfortunate incidents of suicide as reported... It appears that a student aged 22 studying in IIT Kharagpur was found hanging in his hostel room on 4-5-2023... An NEET aspirant committed suicide by hanging himself from an iron grille of her room in Parbhani ahead of the National Medical Entrance Examination, which was scheduled on Sunday, i.e., 11-5-2023," the court said.

SC judges' assets

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: The Supreme Court late on Monday night uploaded on its website details of assets owned by the Chief Justice of India and 20 other judges, consistent with its efforts to ensure greater transparency.

The apex court has 33 judges. The Supreme Court has also decided to put in the public domain the process relating to the appointment of judges to the apex court and the high courts.

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Former general and 103-year-old look back at city's tryst with wars when windows would be blacked out



Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Tuesday. (GCM/Jok via PTI)

Don't punish Kashmiris: Omar

By ZAFAR HANA

Srinagar Chief minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday warned the security establishment against making Kashmiris feel like they were being subjected to "collective punishment" as he flagged the death of a 23-year-old man in Kulgam and multiple arrests following the Pahalgam terror attack.

DDP president Moolaboo Mudi has also urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to "end the policy of arrests and punitive measures and ensure release of innocents", while claiming that 3,000 people had been arrested in the crackdown that followed the April 23 carnage.

Kashmir erupted in outrage after Intiyaz Ahmed Muzaffar was arrested from a stream on Sunday following his arrest by the security forces last week. While Muzaffar's family and politicians have alleged foul play, the police have claimed he committed suicide after jumping into the stream while fleeing from a militant hideout.

Security forces are also facing accusations of killing the brothers of two militants in Baniptora and Kupwara districts and blowing up dozens of houses as part of an anti-terror drive.

"Kilnages should not have happened. There are also reports of arrests in different places. It should not happen with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmir, who for the first time came out and expressed outrage over any militant attack," Omar told reporters.

"People should not feel they are being subjected to collective punishment in order to apprehend the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack," he added.

Calcutta recalls siren & trenches

KENSUK BASU

Calcutta: Battle walls were erected outside windows, trenches were dug along roads, motorists were asked to stop on their way and there would be siren warnings.

Between World War II and the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, Calcutta had been the theatre of regular walling of sirens as part of a war of preparations for war.

Former army chief Shankar Roychowdhury recalled during World War II, air raid precautions (ARP) were made to guard Calcutta against air attacks and to warn residents to be aware of ongoing air raids and take necessary precautions.

"As a school boy, we would listen to the blowing of whistles by ARP wardens outside our house in Calcutta," Gen. Roychowdhury said. "Some of these wardens also helped build battle walls, close to windows, to prevent residents from receiving splinter injuries during bombing or bullet strikes during firing."

Some of those who witnessed both — and lived through the India-China war in 1962 and the India-Pakistan War in 1965 — recalled how sirens would go off from different buildings, including the Metropolitan Building in Calcutta, the ones in the para on College Street and Howrah, mostly at night.

Residents would rush to the ground floor, stay huddled and crouched until clear about would be given.

"Wailing sirens meant lights would have to go off. We had to take street drills," recalled Colonel Subhas Bose, a 100-year-old Salt Lake resident. "We had our windows covered with long cloth strips, like bandages. During the Liberation War, there would be sudden blackouts. Every one carried torches. A flood of refugees kept swarming the city. The streets would go off once in a while. We had to turn on lights. War-time and stress were synonymous."

During World War II, separate trenches would be built for the Indians and the British, he said. The British would have their own trenches, while the Indian father worked with the

UNSC 'tough questions' for Pak

By ZAFAR HANA

New York: UN Security Council member nations posed tough questions to Pakistan while discussing the Pahalgam terror attack amid the escalating global outrage over the deadly strike that killed 26 civilians.

The Security Council refused to issue a statement following the meeting, which was held in a conference room rather than the main hall, effectively diminishing Pakistan's attempt to get a favourable position from the UN organ.

There was heated condemnation of the terrorist attack and the need to fix accountability for it, authoritative sources told PTI after a two-hour session of the top UN body.

"The UN Security Council members raised tough questions for Pakistan at its informal session. It was advised to sort out the issues bilaterally with India," a source said.

At the deliberations, the Security Council discussed rising tensions between India and Pakistan and several envoys called for de-escalation. Greece, president of the UNSC for May, had scheduled the meeting on Monday following a request by Pakistan.

Assistant secretary-general for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs and Peace Operations, Khalid Mohamed Khari, briefed the council on behalf of both de-facto governments (the DFGs and the DFGs).

Coming out of the meeting, Khari said there was a call for "dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict." He noted that "the situation is volatile."

Ambassador Evangelos Berlis, a Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and the current UNSC president, described it as a "productive meeting, indeed."

A Russian diplomat said, "We hope for de-escalation." Sources said there was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and recognition of the need for accountability.



Jannat and Khariat SDF personnel on a boat on Tuesday. (PTI)

accept the "false flag" narrative and asked whether the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tehrik was likely to be involved in the attack.

The sources said Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation also failed. Many members expressed concern that Pakistan's missile tests and nuclear threats were escalatory factors.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Ullah Khan, told reporters that the country's objectives were "largely served and achieved" at the meeting.

He said the objectives of the council deliberations included enabling the council members to have a discussion on the deteriorating security environment and rising tensions between India and Pakistan, and to have an exchange of views on how to address the situation, including avoiding confrontation that could have serious consequences and the need for de-escalation.

UNSC members refused to

PM water hint

By FROM PAGE 1

Outlining the summit's theme of India 2047, Modi said his government was moving towards a "GDP-centric" approach to development instead of a GDP-centric approach.

Instead of a GDP-centric approach, India is moving towards a GDP-centric approach. GDP means Gross Domestic Product, or the total value of goods and services produced in a country.

Modi said his government was confident that India would achieve the target of becoming a "developed" country in the hundredth year of Independence in 2047. He said the country had the "capability, resources and will-power" to "lift the millions" out of poverty.

Modi said his government was working with the vision of "Nation First" and taking bold decisions in every sector. He also mentioned previous actions and at the same time we are taking our yoga and ayurveda to the world," the Prime Minister said.

He said India was showing the world that "tradition and technology can thrive together."

"Today we are among the top countries in digital transformation and in digital trade. We are taking our yoga and ayurveda to the world," the Prime Minister said.

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Mock drills across country today

By FROM PAGE 1

"The focus of the meeting was to enhance emergency preparedness, besides discussing ways to train civilians for emergency scenarios. Key focus areas include public response to air raid sirens, actions to take during blackouts and the readiness of essential supplies," a home ministry official said.

"We are reviewing preparations. During the meeting, we identified some loopholes which will be rectified. Delhi, Bengal and Punjab have a large number of active civil defence volunteers who are engaged in civil drills, including traffic and crowd management," he added.

According to him, civilians will be advised to keep mobile phones, torches and candles handy during the mock drill on Wednesday.

Sources said air sirens would be sounded during the mock drill followed by instructions to the public on the appropriate response. The drill will include citizens on mutual assistance. Special attention will be given to sensitive locations such as airports, railway stations, hospitals and schools. In Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, a blackout drill was conducted in the environment area on Monday. Sources said lights were switched off for half an hour from 8pm. The drill reminded many of the 1971 war, when the bordering district was a key area of conflict.

The home ministry has announced the 75 districts of the states in three categories according to the situation. There are 19 districts in 'A', 54 in 'B' and 2 in 'C' category. This is in accordance with the degree of sensitivity with which a district reacts in certain situations.

"Right from the local administrative level, the security forces to the fire brigade and civic bodies — all have been asked to chalk out plans in coordination with each other for the mock drill. We will also hold meetings with civil society and practice joint mock drills soon," he added.

Prashant Kumar, the Uttar Pradesh director-general of police (DGP), said, "We have discussed the 75 districts of the states in three categories according to the situation. There are 19 districts in 'A', 54 in 'B' and 2 in 'C' category. This is in accordance with the degree of sensitivity with which a district reacts in certain situations."

"Right from the local administrative level, the security forces to the fire brigade and civic bodies — all have been asked to chalk out plans in coordination with each other for the mock drill. We will also hold meetings with civil society and practice joint mock drills soon," he added.

Charge to PM: Follow Telangana census model

By FROM PAGE 1

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposing that the recently concluded Telangana caste survey be used as the template for the nationwide census announced by the government last week.

In a letter to Modi on Monday, Kharge said: "The design of the census questionnaire is crucial. Caste information has to be collected not for counting purposes but for achieving larger socio-economic objectives. The recently concluded Telangana caste survey was designed and implemented with such goals in mind. The

survey was a landmark achievement. It was the first time that caste data was collected at the household level. It was a model survey that set a benchmark for the nationwide census."

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Bling King is a that glitters at Gala

By FROM PAGE 1

Khan added: "I don't know if I would have come here on my own, but when Sabza suggested it, they went 'wow'. I still don't know if that was 'wow', they called me 'wow', so you'd be 'wow'."

Talking about his outfit, Khan said: "I told Sabza I only wear black and white, and to make me look like a king. What he designed for me was 'I am most comfortable in black'. I think I'm a king."

Mukherjee said in an official note issued by his company: "I wanted to represent Shah Rukh Khan as a maverick, superstar, and icon. Period."

After divisive protest, eye on 'encroachers'

By FROM PAGE 1

encroachers were Muslims. The Uttarakhand government has announced a survey of alleged encroachers, including Dalits, and directed them to remove them within three days.

However, the Uttarakhand High Court pulled up the state government on May 2, reminding it of the Supreme Court's directive that mandated a 15-day notice to the owner or occupant of land before demolition.

On Tuesday, members of the Hinduva organisations once again assembled at the Mahila Temple in the town of Mahila, while chanting

Exigency drill

► FROM PAGE 1

This is the first such large-scale exercise in Bengal since the 1971 India-Pakistan war, according to senior officials. Departments, including fire and emergency services, civil defence and disaster management, health and home, will participate in the coordinated drills at over 30 "strategic points" across the 17 districts.

"The details of the mock drill will be sent to the districts by Tuesday evening... The Centre has identified the categorised districts and this state will now decide on the strategic locations where the exercise will be held. More than 30 strategic locations have been identified for the drill so far," said a senior state official.

During a video conference held by Union home secretary Gopinath Mohan, the state was briefed on the steps required to be followed. Bengal chief secretary Manoj Pant, home secretary Nandini Chakraborty and civil defence secretary Rajesh Sinha attended the meeting.

"In the prevailing situation, the state has been described as sensitive by the Centre... The state has been asked to assess the preparedness to deal with any emergency and also check the coordination between the departments that deal with crisis," said a senior government official, adding that common people would not be involved initially.

Asked what kind of exercise would be conducted during the civil defence mock drill in Bengal, a bureaucrat said evacuation during a fire or a building collapse. The drill will also assess how fast the fire tenders are pressed into service during a fire or how quickly the injured are shifted to hospitals during a crisis.

Streets installed in various parts of the state must be kept ready so that people can be alerted during an air strike.

"There are 65 streets in Calcutta and about 20-25 streets in each district. These streets would be checked to ascertain if they are functional. Primary reports suggest that a major-

ity of the streets, mostly in Calcutta, were widely used during World War II when Japanese aircraft dropped bombs in the city. However, they were not used after the 1971 war and are not in working condition," said an official.

He added that in the aftermath of Cyclone Aila's devastation, the state government installed over 500 sirens in 2012 in the disaster-prone parts of Bengal.

The official said that Kolkata Police had issued an urgent message across police stations to collect information about the existing streets in their jurisdictions.

A list of streets has to be collected for repair for use during the mock drills, a senior officer at the police headquarters said on Tuesday. Sources said the use of sirens in the city and district headquarters was discussed at length at the meeting convened by the Union home secretary.

The state was also asked to keep satellite phones ready so that the communication system does not collapse under any circumstances.

"The state has 60-odd satellite phones, which are used during emergencies such as cyclones and other natural calamities, and all are functional," said a source.

A senior official said that the existing control room of the disaster management department at Nabanna would act as the main contact point with the air force. The air force will send messages to the control room to alert it in case of a possible air strike, and it would be passed down to similar facilities in the districts.

Though 17 districts have been shortlisted for the mock drill, senior government officials were surprised to find border districts such as North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Nadia not included.

"These districts share borders with Bangladesh and they have a large population. These districts are very sensitive, given that they are close to Calcutta and the present situation in Bangladesh...," said a senior state official.

Additional reporting by Kishore Barua and Bhaskar Choudhury

Mamata in Murshidabad damage-control mode, but lapses remain

New subdivision for violence hub

SNEHAMOY CHAKRABORTY AND ALAMGIR HOSSAIN

Calcutta/Samsarganj: Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday announced a new subdivision comprising the Suti, Parakka and Samsarganj blocks of Murshidabad.

She also kept senior party leaders from the area away from a meeting with victims of the recent riot that claimed three lives and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds.

A source said both sections by the chief minister during her maiden visit to Murshidabad since the April riots sent a clear message she was

unhappy with the handling of the situation by both her administration and party.

"Announcing a new subdivision for the violence-hit area confirmed she was unhappy with the failure of the police in managing the riot. Keeping local leaders, including the MLA and MP, away from the meeting with victims clearly showed her dissatisfaction with their performance," said a senior TMC leader in Calcutta.

Mamata, during an administrative meeting in Suti, said a new subdivision would be formed comprising Parakka, Dhalian (Samsarganj) and Suti.



Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally at Suti's KD Vidyalaya in Murshidabad on Tuesday. Picture by Samin Akter

"To strengthen the administration here, we have decided to establish a new subdivisional office comprising Parakka, Dhalian and Suti. I expect this will be completed within one to one-and-a-half months. The new office will be set up

at a central location for easy access from all three regions. You no longer have to travel long distances," Mamata said. A source said if the new subdivision office is set up in a central location, it will most likely be Dhalian.

A senior police officer stated the announcement indirectly acknowledged police failure. The police have been accused of failing to provide security to victims due to poor planning. Before Mamata's visit, the chief of the Jangpura police district, Ananda Roy, was transferred.

A source said that during Mamata's meeting with victims, Kalpana Mondal, a

woman from riot-hit Boibona village, requested a permanent BSI camp. Mamata did not respond.

There were accusations that her party leaders failed to prevent the riot despite the area being home to four TMC lawmakers — Jangpura MP Khalibur Rahman, Samsarganj MLA Amirul Islam, Parakka MLA Manirul Islam and Sagarighi MLA Bayron Bhowmik.

MP Rahman and MLA Amirul Islam were not allowed to take part in her meeting with victims at the Samsarganj BDO office on Tuesday. She also did not interact with local leaders at the helipad.

Didi's plea to people: Don't get provoked



Mamata Banerjee with the daughter of Ejaz Ahmed, who was killed in alleged police firing during last month's riot, at Suti in Murshidabad on Tuesday. Picture by Samin Akter

riots. "I am against all riots," she added.

"The people do not carry out riots, but outsiders who are brought to the state in a pre-planned way to engineer riots. You get trapped. Do not do so."

Before the event, Mamata went with senior administrative officials to Dhalian and met 400 strife-stricken families. Her government gave

them multiple forms of assistance. In addition to cheques for ₹1.20 lakh for each of 236 families.

The Trinamool Congress dispensation has been under fire for its alleged failure to avert violence and vandalism in pockets of Murshidabad that affected hundreds of families, claimed at least three lives and injured dozens in April. In the wake of protests against the wage law.

"I do not have anything new to say about wage, do not insist. There is no question of that here. If you must protest, go to Delhi (as it is a central law). There is no problem in Bengal, because I am here. Hindu property, Muslim property, Sikh property, Christian property... I will not have any taken away," she said.

"The case was stayed by the Supreme Court and is now sub judice. Do not confuse. If you do, I will be your biggest enemy," she added.

"Did they not try to snatch rights through NRC-NPR? Did we or did we not hit the streets? Let me think it over and make a decision."

The chief minister said she would not stand by anybody who participated in riots and asked the people to remain as vigilant as the administration on outsiders, to identify the "enemies".

CM skips key riot-hit areas

SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI AND ALAMGIR HOSSAIN

Calcutta/Samsarganj: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee skipped key riot-hit areas during her two-day tour of Murshidabad that ended on Tuesday, prompting shock and disappointment among victims of the April violence.

In Samsarganj, she restricted herself to the BDO office to meet 200 riot-hit families where she distributed cheques for compensation. At Suti, she addressed an administrative programme.

Mamata's decision not to visit the riot-ravaged areas sparked an outcry from both Hindu and Muslim victims.

Buldi Das, a homemaker in Jafrahad, one of the worst-hit villages, said: "Her visit made no difference to us. She came by helicopter and left the same way."

Buldi's grievance found an echo in Dhalian resident Golam Mahmuddin, shot in the legs while out to buy medicine for his mother. "I'm paralysed

and the CM chose to ignore people like us," he said.

Three persons — Haragobindo Das, Chandan Das and Ejaz Ahmed — were killed and at least 16 others suffered bullet wounds. Around 40 police personnel were injured, many homes were set ablaze and shops vandalised. Rebona, Jafrahad and Hitalali villages, and two wards of Dhalian municipality were badly scarred.

Administrative sources avoided taking Mamata to Boibona or Jafrahad for fear of public outrage, especially over the alleged inaction of cops and the suspected role of some TMC leaders in the violence.

BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari alleged Mamata wasn't kept away by security concerns, but was boycotted by victims, which the administration "realised".

"The police riot hit to convince people to attend Mamata's meetings, but they refused," he told reporters in Salt Lake during a demonstration by riot victims outside the State Human Rights Commission office.

Govt to plant 100 neem trees in Digha

OUR BUREAU

Samsarganj/Blambanewar: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that her administration would plant 100 neem trees on the premises of the Jagannath temple in Digha to ensure there was no security of the wood, which is mandatory to carve idols of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra.

Mamata's statement came in the backdrop of the recent allegation that leftover neem wood from Purbi's 12th-century Jagannath Dham had been used to carve the idols placed at the Digha shrine.

"Why will I steal? There is no security of neem trees in Bengal. There are four neem trees at my home too. There are 500 trees planted on the Jagannath Dham premises. We will plant 100 more neem trees there," said Mamata at her administrative meeting in Suti, Murshidabad district.

Odisha chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahant on Tuesday wrote to Mamata, requesting the Bengal government to refrain from using the term "Jagannath Dham" for the Digha shrine.

The letter read: "... The name 'Jagannath Dham' holds a unique and sacred identity linked to Puri, and its usage in reference to any other temple or location hurts sentiment and emotion of millions of pilgrims, devotees, and the general public, besides diluting the distinct heritage of Shree Jagannath Dham, Puri."

Mahant further said: "In view of this, I request the Government of West Bengal to reconsider the usage of the name 'Jagannath Dham' in relation to the Jagannath temple recently established at Digha and refrain from using the term 'Jagannath Dham' in its official naming, communication, and promotional materials."

এনেহিলে সাথে করে মৃত্যুহীন প্রাণ,
মরণে তাহাই তুমি করে গেলে দান।

Dr. Rabindra N. Roy

31.07.1939 - 28.02.2025

Founder President

Hem Sheela Model School

Durgapur (West Bengal)



Celebration of Life

on

10th May 2025

From 5:30 pm

in the School Auditorium

Chairman of Chemistry Department at Drury University, Springfield, Missouri, USA

A pioneer in Undergraduate Research, Recipient of National Research Award 1998 by American Chemical Society

Inaugural Inductee into the College of Natural & Mathematical Sciences - HALL OF FAME at Drury University, USA

A visionary leader, a pioneer in education, a guiding light, a devoted architect of the values, a philanthropist under whose guidance Hem Sheela Model School blossomed into a place of excellence, universality and integrity. His legacy lives in every classroom, in the hearts of countless admirers and wellwishers - an unmatched soul of unique excellence.

In Reverence

Trustees, Management, Teachers, Staff & Students of Hem Sheela Model School and Protima Child & Woman Development Centre, Khatguria, along with entire Hem Sheela Family

Selected intra-day movements
Open High
40997.24 40998.50

Low Close
40481.03 40981.07

1.15 409 4.08 99

Previous 30796.84

CURRENCIES

US \$ 784.43
UK Pound 8112.44
Euro 696.91

INDICES

BSE 40981.07 -135.77
Nifty 24776.84 -81.56
Midcap 30984.30 -2.42
Smallcap 21950.64 -236.54

Most active on NSE

Reliance 1417 1992.56
Coal India 7400 1797.47
TCS 3098 1780.21
HDFC Bank 1808 1680.44
Axis Bank 1526 1635.70

COMMODITIES

Gold (1 gram in ₹)
Silver (100 gm) 23190
Crude oil 59.95 23190

Bitcoin (per ₹)

Bitcoin 23190
Ether 23190
Cardano 23190
Dogecoin 23190

MONEY MARKET

Call rate 4.95-5.00
91-day FDR 6.02
1-year FDR 6.04
5-year FDR 6.17
10-year FDR 6.44

IN BRIEF

Services sector activity up

NEW DELHI: India's service sector activity accelerated slightly in April, largely driven by a quicker increase in new order inflows, which also helped improve the employment situation, according to a monthly survey released on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSI: India Service PMI Business Activity Index rose to 51.7 in April, up from 51.5 in March, indicating a sharp and stronger expansion in the services sector.

The headline figure was above its long-run average of 51.2.

BoB numbers

NEW DELHI: Shares of Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday tumbled nearly 11 per cent after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Tuesday reported a marginal 3 per cent rise in net profit to ₹2,000 crore in the March quarter of FY25.

The lender had earned a net profit of ₹4,866 crore in the year-ago period.

Moody's on growth

NEW DELHI: Moody's Ratings on Tuesday cut India's GDP growth projection for 2025 to 6.3 per cent, from 6.6 per cent, saying economies globally will see a slowdown on account of heightened US policy uncertainty and trade restrictions.

OUTSPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calculation: Government-owned Union Bank on Tuesday said it is probing allegations in the probe of close to 2 lakh books under 'Indo-Indo'.

Environment Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' written by former International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive director K. V. Subramanian and valued at ₹7.25 crore.

Notably, the bank's probe comes at a time the government has been criticised for the services of Subramanian, six months ahead of his three-year tenure.

"The bank has made the said procurement. However, there were certain lapses in

the procurement, which are being examined by the bank," Union Bank has said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday.

At ₹18.55, the bank's shares were down 6.13 per cent on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The exchange filing came after it was reported that the bank had ordered the copies of the book for distribution through the bank's zonal and regional offices, as part of its centenary-linked initiatives to promote economic awareness.

However, the book's purchase has raised concerns over its necessity and the use of public money.

The decision of the government-owned bank drew flak from the Congress, with the party claiming the govern-

ment had rudely terminated Subramanian's position due to "impropriety", and raised questions of "wastage of public money", with no reason given by the government on the abrupt and rare seeking.

Citing internal documents of the public sector bank, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate claimed these books

were meant to be distributed through zonal and regional offices of the Union Bank of India to schools, colleges and libraries. Each of the bank's 18 zonal offices was meant to receive 10,000 copies.

But it now seems the hard evidence has left the government embarrassed and forced its premature removal from the post of India's executive director of the IMF, six months before the completion of his three-year term," she claimed.

It is also alleged that Subramanian used his official position to pressure senior leaders to purchase his book.

The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBE) has also reportedly called for a probe into "wasteful expenditure" by Union Bank.

The appointment and termination of any member on the executive board of the IMF, comprising 25 directors, is a decision that is made by the member countries.

Following Subramanian's termination, Parameswaran Iyer, executive director at the World Bank, has been temporarily entrusted with the responsibility of being India's nominee director on the board of the IMF ahead of a May 1 meeting.

Subramanian was appointed as the executive director (India) at the IMF with effect from November 1, 2022, for a period of three years. Prior to this, he has served as the chief economic adviser to the government.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp is close to an agreement on acquiring a stake in Yes Bank with the Japanese firm eyeing a majority of 51 per cent equity in the Indian lender, three sources familiar with the deal said on Tuesday.

If the deal goes through, it could potentially be the largest in India's banking sector, where deal-making, especially involving foreign entities, is rare.

Shares of Yes Bank soared nearly 10 per cent on Monday on Tuesday. The stock closed at ₹17.94, up 70.21 or 1.14 per cent from Monday's close of ₹17.45.

Restrictions on ownership, stricter capital requirements, and state domination of the banking sector have curbed foreign banks' operations in India.

A takeover of troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank by Singapore-based UBS Group in 2020 was the last major deal in the sector.

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services has paid out 100 per cent of the quarterly variable allowance (QVA) to more than 70 per cent of its workforce for the January-March quarter.

The company clarified that for employees in other grades, the QVA payout is determined by the performance of their respective business units, which is consistent with TCS's established policy across quarters.

We have paid out 100 per cent QVA to over 70 per cent of the company. For all other grades, the QVA depends on their unit's business performance. This is in line with our standard practice across quarters," TCS said in a statement.

TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) reported a 1.7 per cent decline in the March quarter profit to ₹1,324 crore, driven largely by a margin contraction.

The company logged a total revenue of ₹64,479 crore in Q4 FY25, up 5.3 per cent over the year-ago period.

The company added 605

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025

India clinches trade pact with UK

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: India has reached a long-coveted free trade pact with the UK on Tuesday after tariff turmoil sparked by US President Donald Trump forced the two sides to banish efforts to increase their trade in whisky, cars and food.

The deal, between the world's fifth and sixth-largest economies, has been concluded after three years of stop-start negotiations and aims to increase bilateral trade by a further \$25.5 billion (\$34 billion) by 2040 with liberal market access and eased trade restrictions.

Under the deal, 99 per cent of Indian exports will benefit from zero duty access to the UK market, opening up opportunities for Indian exporters across such as textile, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys and gems and jewellery.

In India, connoisseurs of

Scotch whisky and gin may see the price of their covered brands falling significantly as tariffs will be halved from 150 per cent to 75 per cent before reducing to 40 per cent by the deal's 10th year. Automotive tariffs will also go from over 100 per cent to 10 per cent under a quota.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the development as a "landmark" and "historically significant". "In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial free trade agreement, along with a double commitment agreement," adding that it would catalyse trade, investment, growth, job creation and innovation.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "Today we have agreed on a landmark deal with India — one of the fastest growing economies in the world, which will grow the

BID TO UP VOLUMES BY ₹25.5BN

FOR UK EXPORTERS

India to slash duties on 90% of British products, from whisky and medical devices to machinery and food, with 85% of those becoming tariff-free within a decade.

Whisky and gin tariffs will be halved from 150% to 75%, before falling to 40% by the 10th year of the deal.

India will also cut automotive tariffs to 10% from over 100% at present.

Lower tariffs for cosmetics, aerospace, lamb, medical de-



FOR INDIAN EXPORTERS

99% of Indian exports to benefit from zero duty access to the UK market.

Labour-intensive sectors such as textile, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods and toys and games and jewellery to benefit.

approved by the British Parliament before it comes into force.

The deal will show more British firms to compete for contracts in India, and enable Indian workers to travel to Britain for work, without

changing Britain's points-to-benefit immigration system.

According to the UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT), besides whisky and gin, tariff reductions have also been achieved on products such as medical devices, advanced machinery and food, valued at over £1 billion.

Based on 2022 trade statistics, the department claims this amounts to India cutting tariffs worth over £400 million when the deal comes into force, which will more than double to £800 million after 10 years.

The pact marks India's opening up its long-guarded markets, including automobiles, setting an early example for the South Asian nation's likely approach to dealing with major Western powers such as the US and the European Union.

Both countries are also seeking bilateral deals with the United States to remove some of Trump's tariffs that have upended the global trade

"IHCL has liquidity of ₹3000cr which will not only help us tackle headwinds but also give us an advantage for any consolidation opportunities"

Puneet Chhabra, MD and CEO, IHCL

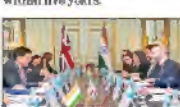


Industry chiefs rejoice

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: Business leaders and industry groups across the Indian-UK corridor welcomed the Free Trade Agreement which is expected to facilitate trade, boost jobs and growth for both economies.

Lord Kanchi Dharma, chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) UK, said he was "over the moon" that the deal has been done because it will be a catalyst to the charge towards recovery, doubling trade to over 60 billion pounds within five years.



Jonathan Reynolds with Purnesh Goyal during trade talks in London, Easter.

"This is the biggest and most important pact that the UK has signed since Brexit. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world, and the fourth largest economy in the world and yet is only Britain's 11th largest trade partner," said Dharma.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) described the FTA as a "transformative accord". "Guided by the 2020 Roadmap, the timely agreement will help advance a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the UK, steering bilateral trade towards the ambitious target of \$100 billion by 2030," said CII president Soumya Port.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hailed the opening up of "massive export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys and gems and jewellery."

"This landmark FTA is poised to significantly accelerate our export growth, with projections indicating a rise to \$2.5 billion within the next two years. As a result, total bilateral trade in goods and jewellery is expected to double, reaching \$7 billion," said Kirti Khosla, chairman of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Manoj Khosla, chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association, welcomed the "transformational" deal: "This is a once-in-a-generation deal and a landmark moment for Scotch Whisky exports to the world's largest whisky market."

"The reduction of the 150 per cent tariff on Scotch Whisky will be transformational for the industry, and has the potential to increase Scotch Whisky exports to India by 50% over the next five years, creating 1,500 jobs across the UK."



METAL MAGIC

Gold surges ₹2400 to ₹99750

New Delhi: Gold prices edged by ₹2,400 to ₹99,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to persistent buying by jewellers and stocks, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at ₹97,350 per 10 grams.

In Calcutta, the price of pure gold rose by ₹3,100 to ₹97,500 from ₹94,400 on Monday.

Extending the gains for the third straight day, gold of 99.5 per cent purity (hallmark gold) jumped ₹2,600 to ₹98,300 per 10 grams on Tuesday. It had closed at ₹96,900 per 10 grams in the previous close.

"Gold prices edged higher as sub-inflation demand returned following President Donald Trump's announcement of fresh tariff plans."

"The proposed measures include duties on pharmaceuticals, telecom and a steep 100 per cent tariff on movies produced outside the US — a move that stoked concerns over renewed trade tensions and their potential impact on global growth," Abhishek Chandra, chief executive officer of Chandra Mittal said.

According to the Sarafa Association, silver prices also climbed ₹1,200 to ₹68,500 per kg.

According to experts, market participants will focus on Wednesday's outcome of the US Federal Reserve's FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) policy meeting and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary on growth and inflation.

Airtel to bring Starlink data to Africa

New Delhi: Airtel Africa on Tuesday announced an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's high-speed internet services to its customers in Africa.

At present, SpaceX has acquired 14 countries within Africa's market. Operating licences for the service in two countries are under process.

Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX — the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology.

Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low Earth orbit (LEO) constellation (550 km above earth).

This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its ground delivery network makes it possible to provide broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming and video calls.

Announcing the pact with SpaceX for Starlink, Airtel Africa said in a release on Tuesday said, "With this collaboration, Airtel Africa will further enhance its next-generation satellite connectivity offerings and augment connectivity for enterprises, businesses, and socio-economic communities like schools, health centres in even the most rural parts

of Africa." Airtel Africa will continue to explore other ways to promote digital inclusion in the continent as well as SpaceX's ability to utilise and benefit from Airtel's ground network infrastructure and other services in Africa.

Starlink is available in more than 20 African markets and this agreement with Airtel highlights how, once licensed, Starlink welcomes the opportunity to join forces with Airtel's extensive network of service providers to ensure as many people as possible can benefit from Starlink's presence, Gibbs said.

"The team at Airtel has played a pivotal role in Africa's telecom story, so working with them to complement our direct offering across Africa makes great sense for our business," the top executive added.

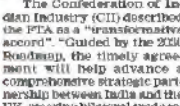
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp is close to an agreement on acquiring a stake in Yes Bank with the Japanese firm eyeing a majority of 51 per cent equity in the Indian lender, three sources familiar with the deal said on Tuesday.

If the deal goes through, it could potentially be the largest in India's banking sector, where deal-making, especially involving foreign entities, is rare.

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Restrictions on ownership, stricter capital requirements, and state domination of the banking sector have curbed foreign banks' operations in India.

A takeover of troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank by Singapore-based UBS Group in 2020 was the last major deal in the sector.



HIGH-SPEED CONNECT

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Tepid listing for Ather

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: The first mainboard listing of Ather Energy had a muted debut on Tuesday, a day marked by tepid market sentiment and volatility. The electric vehicle maker's IPO saw a modest rise in price, but the overall listing was underwhelming.

Investment bankers and market analysts do not expect to see a rush of public issues now despite a healthy pipeline. The stocks of the electric two-wheeler ended at ₹269.50 at the Bombay Stock Exchange, down 7.32 per cent against its opening price and down 5.75 per cent from its issue price.

Ather Energy became the second company in the segment to go public after Ola Electric, which was listed last year.

At the highest end of the price range, the company's net IPO size is estimated at ₹2,000 crore, resulting in a valuation of ₹1,150 crore.

Ather Energy made a muted debut on the stock market, opening with a modest 2 per cent gain. The stock's weak listing and subsequent dip reflect cautious investor sentiment around the electric vehicle sector.

At the start of the financial year, 49 companies had approval from the market regulator, proposing to raise ₹24,000 crore. Another 97 companies, looking to raise ₹1,02,000 crore, were waiting for the regulator's approval for their public offers.

However, as the border tensions began to rise, several companies are now evaluating their IPOs. South Korean major LG Electronics, which was looking to raise an estimated ₹15,000 crore from the capital market by listing its

DEBUT RUN

Ather Energy on BSE in ₹

Open High

Low Close

5.35 269.50

Previous 321.00

IPO pipeline

Ather's debut was seen as a barometer of investor sentiment for primary issues this year, and its lukewarm entry into the market could further dent corporate confidence in going their foot in a choppy equity market.

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Indian unit, has reportedly delayed its IPO, and the company has said that a final decision will be taken based on market conditions.

Two more companies — education loan provider Avenue Financial Services and contract drug maker Anthen Bio — are also likely to postpone their IPO plans, Reuters reported on Tuesday.

"There are only select institutional investors coming in at this point, given the global uncertainty and India-Pakistan tensions have not helped," said Suresh Kumaraswamy, managing director of investment banking at Axis Capital.

"A public offer for a company typically only happens once, and many companies would rather let their approvals lapse than come up with a lukewarm debut in a volatile market," an investment banker told The Telegraph.

Data from capital market regulator SEBI shows that the number of IPOs on the mainland, which peaked to 56 in the end of Q4 FY24, fell sharply to 10 at the end of Q4 FY24, with no IPOs seen in March (and also April) as the private sector went into a wait-and-see mode.

US tariffs disrupting global and domestic market sentiments.

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The order by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI

Mock drills at La Martiniere schools

JIBNUK MAZUMDAR



La Martiniere for Girls

Calcutta: At least two city schools will train students in how to evacuate in the event of a war-like situation.

The La Martiniere schools said that on Wednesday, the fire alarm will go off at 11.30am in the boys' school and 12.30pm in the girls' school to practice how to evacuate students quickly and take them to a safe place.

The drill will be for students of Classes VI to XII. "We decided to conduct the mock drill in both schools. The NCC (National Cadet Corps) Wing of the boys' school will conduct the mock drill on both campuses," said Supriya Dhar, secretary, La Martiniere schools.

The drill will include the teachers and non-teaching staff of the schools.

"Being ready psychologically is important. Physical reflexes work better when one is prepared mentally," said Rupakatha Sarkar, principal, La Martiniere for Girls.

The Union home ministry on Monday asked several states to conduct mock drills on May 7.

The measures to be taken include operationalising air raid sirens and training people in civil defence measures.

"An alarm will go off at

11.30am, when students are in their classrooms. In case there is any emergency or an attack what should the action plan be so that students and teachers are safe. It will be a short drill focusing on the basics of evacuation," said a teacher at La Martiniere for Boys, who is part of the NCC unit of the school.

Sports teacher Pranjali Sur, also part of the NCC unit, said the drill would include training students to take the nearest exit and go to a safe place.

"Every floor has an exit plan. The class teachers and subject teachers would guide the students to take the

nearest exit," said Sur. "We will have two NCC army wing staff who will draw up the drill guidelines of the mock drill. The army staff are expected to show the students camouflage and life-saving drills," he said.

Celsius to touch 38° by weekend

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: The Met office has sounded a weather alert for the western districts of south Bengal from Thursday. Bankura, Jhargram, West Bardhaman and Purulia are among the places

where the heatwave is likely. In Calcutta, the day temperature is likely to reach 38 degrees by the start of the weekend. Tuesday's maximum temperature was 34.5 degrees, a notch below normal.

The Met office shared a thunderstorm alert late afternoon. But only some parts of the city got some winds and a few drops of rain till 8pm.

"Due to favourable wind patterns and moisture incursion from Bay of Bengal, thunderstorm activity is likely over the districts of West Bengal over the next 24 hours. Thereafter, a change in wind pattern is very likely to occur and mainly dry westerly to northwesterly wind likely to prevail over the region and consequently heat wave conditions are very likely to occur over some districts of south Bengal from May 8," said a Met bulletin.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Chhatraagarh Rural Road Development Agency Project Circle No. 01 Buxar E-Procurement Tender Notice

SHORT NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NET No. 172 & 173 / TR 1605 & 1606 CHHATRA / 2025 Buxar Date: 05/05/2025

The Superintending Engineer, Chhatraagarh Rural Road Development Agency, Project Circle No. 01 Buxar on behalf of Government of Chhatraagarh invite Online percentage rate bids from the eligible contractors / Firms registered with unified registration system for registration with Public Works Department. Details are as under:-

S. No.	Sl. No.	Category	Work	Section	Scope of Work	Estimate Value (Rs. Lakhs)	No. of Bids	ETP Applied
1	172	Sub-Item	Chhatraagarh	Work on National Highway (NH-30)	Construction of road from Chhatraagarh to Buxar (Length 3.00 Km)	1.00.00	10	100%
2	173	Sub-Item	Chhatraagarh	Work on National Highway (NH-30)	Construction of road from Chhatraagarh to Buxar (Length 3.00 Km)	1.00.00	10	100%

Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement: 08/05/2025

After 17.00 Hours.

Smyad-43765/3

Pune Municipal Corporation - Health Department Tender Cell Department Tender Advertisement

Sr.	Particulars	Date
1.	Tender Form Sale Period	07/05/2025
2.	Tender Form Recalling Period	07/05/2025
3.	Bid Submission End Date	16/05/2025
4.	Tender Opening Date	16/05/2025
5.	Pre-Bid Meetings Date	14/05/2025

Tender No.	Department	Name of Work	Tender Fee	SI/RI	EMD Amt.	Period of Work	Contact Person Mobile No.
PMCH/Health/MS/08/2025-26	Health	Purchase of All Types of Medicines and Medical Appliances along daily basis for Urban Poor Health Scheme (E.S.S.) from License Holder Medicine Supplier.	17579/-	B-1	5,00,000/-	24 Months	Rajul Mandav Wadgaonkar 8081180598

Sd/- Dr. Sanjay Wavare, Asst. Medical Officer of Health, Pune Municipal Corporation
Sd/- Dr. Nina Borde, Medical Officer of Health, Pune Municipal Corporation

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BHOPAL

(An Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India)

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. Phone: 0731-2540001, Fax: 0731-2540002

Advt. No. Academic/AIIMS, Bhopal/MH/2025-26 Date: 04/05/2025

Advertisement for Master of Hospital Management July-2025 Session

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the Master of Hospital Management (MHPM) for the July 2025 session of AIIMS Bhopal. The detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, prescribed format for application, details of seats, terms and conditions, etc. are available on the institute website www.aiimbhopal.edu.in

The Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal reserves the right to consider/revise the vacancies without assigning any reasons therefor.

Note: The candidates are advised to visit AIIMS, Bhopal website www.aiimbhopal.edu.in regularly for any update(s).

Deans (Academic)



MANGALAM VIDYA NIKETAN

KAIKHALI, CHIRIAMORE, KOLKATA-700136

(Affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi)

TOPPERS OF ICSE 2025

School Highest - 98.8%
School Average - 88.49%

LAKSHI RATHI 97.6% COMMERCE	AADRIK SAHA 97.2% SCIENCE	RISHAN CHOWDHURY 97% SCIENCE	ANNA SINGHA 97% SCIENCE	SOUMYA JAISWAL 97% COMMERCE	MEHAK AGARWAL 97% COMMERCE	HANS JAISWAL 96.6% SCIENCE	PRASHANSA AGARWAL 96.2% SCIENCE
ROHAN MISHRA 95.8% SCIENCE	PRACHI MISHRA 95.8% SCIENCE	CHIRAG MEHRA 95.8% COMMERCE	ARUSH DEY 95.6% SCIENCE	AKSHARA GUPTA 95.6% COMMERCE	AISHIK KUNDU 95.2% SCIENCE	ANSHUMAN TIWARI 95.2% SCIENCE	KRITI MUNDRA 95.2% COMMERCE

TOPPERS OF ISC 2025

School Highest - 98.5%
School Average - 84.86%

SIDHI LADHA 98.5% COMMERCE	DEEPIKA AGARWAL 97.25% COMMERCE	RAJKA CHANDAK 97% COMMERCE	AASHI AGARWAL 96.75% COMMERCE	YASH YADHAN MUNDHRA 95.5% COMMERCE	DISHITA SHAH 95% SCIENCE	MAHI AGARWAL 94.75% SCIENCE	AVNI BAJORIA 94.5% COMMERCE
DEBADRITO DEBNATH 94.25% SCIENCE	GARV AGARWAL 94% SCIENCE	SHUBHANGI JHA 94% SCIENCE	ANUSHRI AGARWAL 93.5% COMMERCE	ABHISEK AGARWAL 93.5% COMMERCE	ARIHANT JAIN 92.75% COMMERCE	JRGA VANISHITA 92.5% SCIENCE	

The Telegraph

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025 VOL. XLII NO. 297

MOOD MATTERS

The war drums have, unfortunately, been sounded in both India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the terrorist strike in Pahalgaon. But the beats seem to differ a bit. In India, the media has been the principal warzone drumming up public sentiment in favour of an aggressive response. The story in Pakistan, evidently, is more complicated because there seems to be a discernible gap between the political and the public responses to the possibility of conflict. Pakistan's Establishment — the military leadership, especially the hawkish army chief, Asim Munir, along with the civilian government — has adhered to predictable, thunderous rhetoric. But the civilian reaction, unlike that in 2019 when there was a military escalation between the two nations, has been circumspect. Two principal reasons are being cited to explain this phenomenon. The first pertains to Pakistan's economy. High inflation and joblessness are matters consuming the *am naami* in Pakistan. That the economy is being helped to breathe by largesse from the International Monetary Fund must be weighing on the minds of Pakistan's civilian constituency. In fact, Moody's latest prediction about prolonged tensions with India being injurious to Pakistan's limping economy is likely to sullen the public mood further. The second, and equally important, factor concerns a slight shift in the compact between Rawalpindi and ordinary Pakistanis. Pakistan's army undoubtedly commands public fealty. But there are also signs of stress, especially after the ouster of Imran Khan — a favourite of the man of the street — by the army. That Mr Munir is Mr Khan's chief adversary in the corridors of power has added to the complications in the ties between the military and the people of Pakistan. These developments in Pakistan merit an enquiry: could economic distress and a weakened democracy function as anti-war devices?

New Delhi must take note of this state of public disaffection with the powers that be in its recalcitrant neighbour. A full-scale conflict could make Pakistanis stand behind the civil-military apparatus. Perhaps there is wisdom in India utilising the sombre public mood in Pakistan to its advantage; leveraging it to bring pressure on Pakistan's deep State that facilitates cross-border terrorism could be one option that can be looked into. Piling further economic pressure on its beleaguered economy, as opposed to a full-blown conflict, in conjunction with a reasoned strategic response is the need of the hour.

WAR AND PEACE

Interference in academic matters has almost become commonplace in Indian universities. At a meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Matters of Delhi University, the chairperson objected to the inclusion of the Kashmir issue and the Israel-Palestine conflict as case studies in the section named the 'Psychology of Peace' in the proposed psychology syllabus. The case studies were part of the chapter on conflict and conflict resolution. The chairperson said that the Kashmir issue had been 'resolved' — this despite the recent bloodshed in Pahalgaon — and there was no need for lessons on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The logic is elusive. The aim of the section was to help students understand the concepts of peace, its need, peace process and its psychology. If the Kashmir issue was already resolved, then there could be nothing better for students to understand the process. The subject of the Israel-Palestine conflict, historical as well as current, would be enormously helpful in exploring the psychology of conflict and the failure of peace processes. But the chairperson's reason to excise it was that it was unnecessary. Evidently he does not mind if students remain ignorant of the world they live in. His objections have been criticised as politically motivated and as ideological interference in academic matters. More so, because he said that students should learn from ancient Indian texts such as the *Mahabharata* and the *Gita* to gain an indigenous perspective on peace.

The chairperson's intervention raises an issue that is independent of his point of view. Would ancient texts be more illuminating than current or recent events in understanding conflict, its resolution, and the psychology of peace? Certainly, the ancient story of a conflict that could have been avoided might be useful given that the social arrangements, reasons for the conflict, and efforts at peace were unlike those in present times. There is no harm in a plurality of perspectives. But present or recent conflicts and their resolution — when that happens — are more meaningful because they are contemporary; they are familiar contentions of ethnicity, ideology or territorial aggression set in a world of known social dispensations, modern ideas and thinking processes, recognisable fears and forms of resistance. Both perspectives can be included for a full understanding; excluding specific case studies to satisfy ideological inclinations is an assault on academic autonomy and a harmful narrowing of academic vision.

SCRIPSI

* The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. — KARL MARX

Why should anyone continue being Left?

Beacon of hope

PRABHAT PATNAIK

The Soviet Union has collapsed; whether China remains socialist has become a matter for research. The question, therefore, arises why should anyone, other than a person with a religious streak, continue being Left and believing in a socialist future for mankind? This question would indeed have been quite clinching if the recent decline of the Left had been accompanied by a flourishing of capitalism; that would have proved that the Left's decline was because of a fundamental flaw in its theoretical underpinnings.

The world today, however, is characterised by a capitalism that is afflicted not just by a massive economic crisis and political repression but it is also actually presiding over a genocide on a scale unprecedented in living memory. The only foreseeable future one can visualise for mankind today is a socialist future whose arrival may be painful and delayed but it is essential for escaping from the present morass.

The economic crisis is obvious. From the finding by the American economist Joseph Stiglitz, that the real wage of an average male American worker in 2011 was marginally lower than that in 1998 to the overwhelming evidence of an increase in nutritional deprivation in India and in much of the Global South between 1993-94 and 2011-12, it is clear that even the heyday of neoliberal capitalism had seen a process of absolute immiseration of the working people everywhere; the slowdown in the world economy following the collapse of the US housing 'bubble', which has now morphed into a secular stagnation, and mounting unemployment has made matters far worse for them.

The Keynesian prescription of a rise in State expenditure to counter sluggish demand does not work under neoliberal capitalism. State expenditure can increase employment only if it is financed either by a larger fiscal deficit or by larger taxes on the rich; taxing the working people and using the tax-proceeds for raising State expenditure do not increase aggregate demand since the working people consume much of their incomes anyway.

Both these ways of financing large State expenditure are anathema for finance capital. Since finance today is globalised while States remain nation-states, the latter must defer to the wishes of the former to avoid debilitating capital flights. This rules out the Keynesian remedy for counteracting stagnation; it weakens the nation-state's power to overcome it. Not surprisingly, there is a strong neo-fascist upsurge all over the world that is supported by monopoly capital. It uses a divergent discourse so that the hegemony of monopoly capital faces no threat from the ongoing crisis. In India, this



alliance between neo-fascism and monopoly capital has taken the form of a corporatist-Hindutva alliance.

The neo-fascist discourse shifts attention from the prevailing economic distress of the working people and focuses instead on a helpless minority whom it 'Others' and against whom it generates hatred within the majority; this has the added advantage from the point of view of monopoly capital of disrupting the unity of the working people and preventing any collective action on their part against its hegemony. At present, capitalism, therefore, has brought both economic distress for the people and political repression that are unprecedented at least over the last half-century. Moreover, there is no possibility of an end to this state of affairs within neoliberal capitalism; the same commentators that prevent State intervention for overcoming the crisis within a liberal bourgeois dispensation also apply when the State is headed by neo-fascists for established finance capital's opposition to fiscal deficits or taxes on the rich does not disappear when the State is headed by neo-fascists.

Donald Trump's resort to higher tariffs must be seen in this context. Since demand cannot be increased through State expenditure, the only way to increase demand for any particular country is by snatching it away from other countries by predatory means. It is called 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, before the fascist governments in Japan and Germany had expanded demand by increasing military expenditure and financing it by massive fiscal deficits (they could do this because finance capital was not globalised but national and could be co-opted into accepting larger

fiscal deficits), there had been a spite of 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies through competitive exchange rate depreciations following the collapse of the Gold Standard.

Trump has started a similar 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policy using tariffs as the weapon. The success of such a policy for any particular country depends upon whether other countries retaliate; if they do, then all countries become even worse off collectively than they were before the spate of competitive 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies began. In the present case, countries of the Global South are likely to be brow-beaten into eschewing retaliation, even bringing down their own tariffs in exchange for the Americans not raising theirs. This would further squeeze the working people in the Global South, especially farmers in a country like India, destroy food security, and expose these countries to the danger of famines; Africa, where foodgrain self-sufficiency was abandoned earlier, provides a classic example of this.

While the economic distress and political repression unleashed by contemporary capitalism are evident, some may object to my invoking the Gita genocide among the crimes of capitalism. How does capitalism, they would ask, enter the picture here? Let us for the moment accept their argument, ignoring the thousands who support the Benjamin Netanyahu government for his capitalist powers and the obvious plan of imperialism to use Israel as its *gendarme* in the Middle-east. Even then, it is undeniable that the Left everywhere is the most consistent force standing up for the Palestinians. Its historical role for mankind's survival and for the preservation of sanity is unquestionable.

What the male gaze desires

SREEDEEP BHATTACHARYA

The male gaze has existed since the invention of the camera and print technology. But the advent of the camera and print technology made that gaze penetrative and pervasive. The invention and the dissemination of these two technologies, which facilitated the reproduction of images, accelerated the objectification of the female body. Other forms of technological mediation — from video to virtual reality — have further advanced the conversion of flesh into fetish.

Gaze is not just an act of looking; the term connotes inequality of power. The male gaze conceives the woman as an object of desire and pleasure, denying the woman any agency. The male not only facilitates such an objectification but also normalises its access and naturalises its excess across media platforms. The fragmented female body, dissociated from her person, thus becomes a popular global commodity.

But the desirable female body must conform to certain standards pertaining to size, weight, height and skin colour. An entire regime of exercise, diet, grooming, cosmetics, supervision, surgery aligns to make the desirable body; it is put on display to lure attention. Patriarchal capitalism has convinced us of the importance of making the 'idealised' body. Any other body type is useless for the mass production and the mass consumption of the desirable body.

It is imperative for the patriarchal fiction to project men as being in charge as chasers and women being passive recipients. The pornography industry is the epitome of patriarchy's insatiable hunger. It produces the most blatant displays of male lust. Bodies, intimacy, sexuality — everything is thoroughly disembodied and disjointed within the pornographic gaze. Implicit and apparent in this disposition and display is the question of pleasure: Is it through the control and display of women's bodies, to what extent, and for whom? These are not ethical questions concerning



vanity. If she still acts unwilling, then she has to be taught a lesson. Consequently, in this celebration of machismo and male pride, there is no concept of consent.

There is no dearth of the patriarchal valorisation of men as producers, protectors and primary decision-makers that reduces the role of women to reproducers, service providers and passive receivers. This kind of gender-stereotyping and gender-performativity has been used to reinforce relations of domination and subordination for centuries. What must also be noted is the patriarchal notion of pleasure. This idea of pleasure is built through the perceived subordination and disempowerment of women.

In her pathbreaking book, *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir wrote, "she could only win by losing, so she remains lost." This sentiment is perhaps borne out by the pervasiveness of the male gaze.

SreedEEP Bhattacharya is an Associate Professor in Shiv Nadar University

Prabhat Patnaik is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies, Jawahar Nehru University, New Delhi

Shared resource

■ Sir — While all eyes are on India and Pakistan and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, another contest over the sharing of water is brewing within the country. The escalating disputes between Punjab and Haryana over water allocation from the Bhakra Beas Management Board is alarming. While Punjab's claims regarding unutilised surplus are valid, physical obstruction of Central Inflow is anathema to the rule of law. Both states must exhibit statesmanship and restraint. Provoking public sentiment on such an emotive issue is risky. The Centre should act as a neutral mediator, ensuring that historical grievances do not overshadow present responsibilities. River waters are not political trophies but life-giving resources that must be managed with wisdom, fairness, and cooperation, not brinkmanship.

Satyajit Malik, Siliguri

■ Sir — It is deeply concerning to witness the resurgence of hostilities between Punjab and Haryana over river water allocation. History offers grim warnings: the Bharan Yash Morcha and subsequent insurgencies had devastating consequences. Rekindling tensions through aggressive actions and obstructive rhetoric risks destabilising a sensitive border state. The BBMB must remain impartial and all parties should adhere to established norms. The people deserve leadership that seeks equities.

Priyanshu Dash, Bhopal, Odisha



Not so hidden

■ Sir — Everything — from art galleries to trendy cafes — is a 'hidden gem' according to social media influencers. The quest for 'hidden gems' to be added here, though, is like who is it hiding from? Youngsters who have clearly spent most of their lives in their homes surfing the Internet seem to think every *petit shop* or *doit*, which does brisk business, is a hidden gem because they have little exposure to the outside world. Places like Cafe, Bangla Valley, and Dikhkhana are hardly hidden from Calcutta. The same goes for places like Bol-chela Gokul and Golpar's second-hand book stalls. Generations of people visit these places. Rather than being hidden gems, these places are an inseparable part of the city's life. Young people should enjoy them without their phone cameras.

Anshu Kumar Kar, Calcutta

■ Sir — While all eyes are on India and Pakistan and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, another contest over the sharing of water is brewing within the country. The escalating disputes between Punjab and Haryana over water allocation from the Bhakra Beas Management Board is alarming. While Punjab's claims regarding unutilised surplus are valid, physical obstruction of Central Inflow is anathema to the rule of law. Both states must exhibit statesmanship and restraint. Provoking public sentiment on such an emotive issue is risky. The Centre should act as a neutral mediator, ensuring that historical grievances do not overshadow present responsibilities. River waters are not political trophies but life-giving resources that must be managed with wisdom, fairness, and cooperation, not brinkmanship.

Priyanshu Dash, Bhopal, Odisha

regional one-upmanship. The BBMB and the Centre must ensure that justice prevails without inciting further divisions.

Tushik Bhattacharya, South 24 Parganas

■ Sir — As the BBMB dispute intensifies, it is essential for the Centre to act swiftly and impartially. Perceptions of favouritism, whether justified or not, can inflame tensions and compromise the credibility of federal governance. It is crucial that the Central government facilitates respectful dialogue between Punjab and Haryana while reinforcing that no state has the right to act unilaterally or on national infrastructure. Where sharing must be governed by law, not sentiment. Silence or bias at this juncture could erode public trust in national institutions.

Masabib Qasim Pahal, Lucknow

■ Sir — It is disheartening to observe political parties in Punjab and Haryana using the water-sharing issue to fan

the plight of farmers on both sides. Agriculture, the backbone of both states, is already reeling from water scarcity, rising input costs, and climate uncertainty. Turning a resource issue into a political battleground benefits no one. Authorities must prioritise data-driven decisions and transparent dialogue. Farmers deserve access to water based on need, not historical animosities or

Shruti is crying

regional sentiments. With Punjab facing severe groundwater depletion and Haryana seeking its rightful share, the path forward lies in scientific assessment, fair allocation, and cooperative federalism. Politicians must resist exploiting public emotion for short-term gains.

Anil Kumar, Meerut

■ Sir — The proposal to reopen the Alcatraz prison as a symbol of 'law and order' is deeply troubling. Such a gesture revives memories of harsh, punitive measures and authoritarian ideals rather than addressing modern justice reform. Alcatraz, with its grim legacy, should remain a historical site of past excesses. The focus ought to be on rehabilitation and humane incarceration.

Raj Goyal, Noida

■ Sir — The justice system deserves progressive policies rooted in evidence. But the president of the United States of America, Donald Trump, does not understand this.

Stylish traveller

■ Sir — The recent viral video of four impeccably-behaved cats travelling to Paris highlights what responsible pet ownership and patient training can achieve. In an age when air travel often begins with stress and disruption, this feline quartet provided a refreshing example of calm companionship.

M. Jayaram, Shreeganesh, Thiruvananthapuram

Labels should go back to The Telegraph 5 Prabhakar Street, Calcutta 700001. The City Group



THE TIP

To build a strong team, develop a regular ritual such as a daily tea break, a weekly lunch or after-work drinks

The Telegraph

WELLNESS

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025

STRIKE THREE

New research says 17 overlapping factors affect risk of stroke, dementia and late life depression **Nina Agrawal** on lifestyle changes to lower risk

Although they may appear unrelated, people who have dementia, depression or who experience a stroke often end up having one or both of the other conditions too, said Dr Sangula Singh, a principal investigator at the Brain Care Labs at Massachusetts General Hospital, US, and the lead author of the study. That's because they may share underlying damage to small blood vessels in the brain, experts said.

Some of the risk factors common to the three brain diseases, including high blood pressure and diabetes, appear to cause this kind of damage. Research suggests that at least 60 per cent of strokes, 40 per cent of dementia cases and 35 per cent of late-life depression cases could be prevented or slowed by controlling risk factors.

"These are striking numbers," said Dr Stephanie Collier, director of education in the division of geriatric psychiatry at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, US. "If you can see it, optimise the lifestyle pieces, then you can see a higher likelihood of living life without disability."

Often, the risk factors for these diseases are interconnected, and addressing one, for example, getting more exercise by going for routine walks with a friend, can also help you address others, like excess weight and social isolation.

"If you're starting to work on one of them, very often you're actually improving multiple at the same time," Dr Singh said. "That's a green way to start."

Protective Factors

The study, which looked at data from 59 meta-anal-



SMART MOVE: Tasks such as reading, solving puzzles or playing chess protect against brain diseases

yses, identified six factors that lower your risk of brain diseases:

- Low to moderate alcohol intake, consuming one to three drinks a day had a smaller benefit than consuming less than one drink a day
- Cognitive activity meaning regular engagement in mentally stimulating tasks such as reading or doing puzzles or playing chess
- A diet high in vegetables, fruit, dairy fish and nuts
- Moderate or high levels of physical activity
- A sense of purpose in life
- An active social life and a large social network

Factors That Increase Risk

The study also identified 13 health characteristics and habits that make you more likely to develop dementia, a stroke or late-life depression. Altogether, the protective and harmful factors add up to 19 factors because two of them, diet and social connections, can increase or decrease risk depending on their type and quality.

- High blood pressure
- High body mass index
- High blood sugar
- High total cholesterol
- Depressive symptoms
- A diet high in red meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, sweets and sodium

- Hearing loss
- Kidney disease
- Pain, particularly, if it interferes with activity
- Sleep disturbances (for example, insomnia or poor sleep quality) or sleep periods longer than eight hours
- Smoking history
- Loneliness or isolation
- General stress or stressful life events (as reported by study subjects)

The study only looked at risk factors linked to two or more of the three conditions. It did not prove that these risk factors directly cause the diseases. All it showed was an association.

Trying to tackle all of

these behaviours for brain health might feel overwhelming. But Dr Singh suggested treating the list like a menu of options. "Choose just a first risk factor and then take it step by step," she said.

Where to Begin

The study also identified which specific risk factors and protective habits have a particularly notable effect on brain health. Addressing those, doctors said, is a great place to start.

"Lowering your blood pressure can have huge benefits. The study found that high blood pressure was the greatest individual

risk factor for developing any of the three diseases. In large part because it nearly triples the risk of stroke. To do this, you might start by lowering salt in take, overeating more or losing weight," said Dr Alison Moore, chief of the division of geriatrics, gerontology and palliative care at the University of California San Diego in the US. But those interventions aren't always enough, she said, especially as we age and our blood vessels stiffen. That's when medication can help.

■ Flex your physical and mental muscles. Bonus points if it is with friends.

Moderate and high physical activity substantially decreased the chances of stroke and dementia, as did having a large social network. Shil Collier said the data reaffirms her advice to patients to engage in mental tasks that are "a little bit difficult" such as reading, doing puzzles or learning a new instrument. Ideally, she said, you'd do those activities with someone else, because conversation can be cognitively stimulating and because you get the added benefit of social interaction.

■ Start early if you can. Collier said the right time to start making lifestyle changes "is generally not older age; it's middle age." That can prevent even early disease from developing.

But taking steps to reduce these risk factors can help prevent or slow the progression of disease later in life, too. It can also benefit patients who have a family history or genetic predisposition for these diseases, who "often feel like it's their inevitable fate," Dr Singh said. But "there are things they can do we all can do to take better care of their brains."

NTNS

Why mother's milk is best for baby



YOUR HEALTH
DR GITA MATHAI

Human babies need nurturing from the time they are born until they are able to feed for themselves. For the first six months of life the best food for the baby is mother's milk. Many infant formula manufacturers have tried to duplicate breast milk, but they have not yet been successful.

All animals have different digestive systems and nutritional requirements. Breast milk is ideally formulated for digestion by human babies. (Cow's milk is best for the calf.) Human milk provides all the baby's requirements, in addition to energy, it contains immunoglobulins from the mother. This protects the baby against infectious diseases to which the mother has already been exposed or has received immunisation.

Human females are born with two breasts. These start to develop during puberty and become functional during pregnancy. Hormones are released during pregnancy which causes the breast to grow and start functioning.

In the first few days after birth, the milk is called colostrum. It provides easily digestible nutrition and immunoglobulins to prevent disease. Within a few days, this becomes proper milk which is released as per demand under the influence of hormones.

Milk production is a "letdown" reflex, so as the baby suckles and stimulates the nipple, milk is constantly produced. Milk may also be produced on the side from which the baby is not feeding, causing some leakage. When the baby stops feeding, the milk production stops as the letdown reflex ceases. The milk does not stay in it to breast like in a refrigerator. If you miss feeding for a few hours, the milk will not spoil.

Milk can be expressed from the breast and stored outside. It can be kept at room temperature for four

hours, refrigerated for four days and frozen for four months. This expressed milk can be warmed and fed to the baby as required.

Sometimes, the women feel that the breast milk is not adequate because when she expresses the milk, she feels that a sufficient amount is not coming out. It is enough if the baby sleeps for two to three hours after feeding and passes adequate amounts of urine.

A tablet called metoclopramide is sometimes prescribed twice a day 10 minutes before food to establish and increase lactation. A simple natural way to do this is to drink a glass of water before feeding the baby and then another glass as soon as you finish. Also, eat an adequate, nutritious diet. Sit up and feed the baby and hold its head up at a 45-degree angle so that both of you are comfortable. The room should not be too hot or cold. It should be quiet and peaceful. If the mother is under a lot of stress, enough milk may not be produced.

Milk is the only food that the baby requires for six months or 180 days. After that, natural weaning foods can be introduced.

Breast milk can be continued for one or two years. Breastfeeding may produce amenorrhoea (absence of menstruation) but it does not inhibit ovulation, so you can become pregnant while breastfeeding.

Sometimes milk is produced in a non-pregnant woman or even in a man. This is a condition called galactorrhoea. It needs investigations with blood tests and scans.

This milk secretion may occur under the influence of hormones secreted by the pituitary gland like prolactin or thyroid stimulating hormone. Medications such as anti-psychotics and antidepressants or even anti-acidic drugs can increase prolactin levels and produce milk. Continuous irritation of the breast by tight clothing or sexual failure can also cause lactation.

Breast milk is a living, dynamic substance, uniquely designed to nourish and protect babies during their most vulnerable stage of life. You must ensure that the baby gets it for optimal growth.

The writer has a family practice at Vellore and is the author of *Staying Healthy in Modern India*. If you have any questions or health issues please write to yourwellbeing@vsnl.com

RISES IN THE EAST



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Xaverian 5-a-side meet

OUR BY REAL

Calcutta. Eight corporate-backed franchise teams will take part in the second edition of the Xaverian Soccer League, organised by St Xavier's College Alumni Association in collaboration with the department of sports, St Xavier's College (Autonomous).

It will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the college ground. The League, first started in 2024, has swiftly become one of the city's most anticipated youth football events. Each side consists of carefully curated mix of players, one marquee player, one guest player, three current students and three alumni players resulting in a vibrant, inter-generational five-a-side football format.

The marquee players are Rahim Nadi (Sharp Shooter), Mahesh Hussain (Goalscorer), Asim Barua (Captain), Verian Tiger (Midfielder), BTJ Blasters, Deepak Mondal (Defender), Deepankar Roy (Goalkeeper), Dhanu Deydas (Goalkeeper) and Avinav D'Cunha (Goalkeeper).

XSL reflects our commitment to holistic development by blending academics with sports and camaraderie. It's heartening to see students, alumni, and sports persons come together in this celebration. As principal, I am proud to see St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Calcutta.



Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze (extreme right) converts a penalty against Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park in London on Monday. (Reuters)

Forest suffer setback

PREMIER LEAGUE	
PALACE	1
FOREST	1

London: Nottingham Forest's quest for a Champions League berth next season suffered a setback when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace in a Premier League match on Monday.

Murillo cancelled out Eberechi Eze's penalty for the hosts.

The draw leaves Forest in sixth place in the table on 61 points from 36 games, two points behind fifth-placed Chelsea in the final Champions League qualification position.

Mid-table Palace took the

lead at Selhurst Park when Eze converted a penalty on the hour mark after Forest goalkeeper Petr Sestak had felled Tyrick Mitchell. Eze also hit the crossbar later.

The lead lasted four minutes before Neco Williams shot over the bar from the edge of the box, set by defender Murillo who imperiled shortly afterwards with a hamstring injury that could see him miss Forest's run-in to the end of the campaign.

It was a game of two halves. Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo told Sky Sports: "In the first half we were in control of the game. In the second, we started good but then Palace reacted. It was good for us. We achieved the goal, so

soon after Palace scored.

"The final games of the season are going to be like this, nervous games, tight games. Everybody is fighting for something. It's up to us to react."

Palace have still not beaten Forest in the top division since 1981 but stepped closer to a Premier League record point's total of 49.

They have 46 with three games to play.

"We had quite a few chances at the end," Eze said.

"I thought we were going to take it, but I think a point, we'll take it. We're positive, we know we put in a good performance."

Palace took 35 minutes for Forest to have the first of

fort on goal when Daniel Munoz's volley from 10 yards was well saved by Sestak.

Palace were awarded a penalty in the 68th minute when Mitchell, was felled by the outstretched leg of Sels for what looked like a clear penalty. However, it was converted only after a VAR confirmation.

Eze who missed a spot kick at Newcastle's United last month, swept the ball into the left corner just past the outstretched arm of Sels.

Forest were soon level though as a corner was cleared by Williams on the edge of the box and his crossbar was intentionally deflected into the net by Murillo.



AC Milan's Stefano Letici

Villa upset at schedule change

London: Aston Villa officials have expressed their unhappiness with the Premier League for bringing forward a match against Tottenham by two days to help Spurs maximise preparation time for a potential appearance in the Europa League final.

The match was due to be played on Sunday, May 18, but will now take place on Friday, May 16 - two days before the title match in the Europa League in Bilbao, Spain.

Tottenham leads Tottenham 2-1 from the first leg of the semi-finals, with the return match on Thursday, May 15.

The fixture rearrangement gives Villa a team chasing Champions League qualification - two fewer days to prepare for Tottenham. I will also affect logistical arrangements for some Villa fans.

Months, president of football operations at Villa, took to X to say the change in schedule "is not what we wanted" and represented "the least damaging alternative."

"Our fans don't deserve this," he wrote on the social network site "but we tried hard to keep the match to protect the most important for us: YOU and OUR TEAM."

Damian Vidugany, Villa director of football, operations went further in a long post on X, saying there was a "clear prejudice" toward Villa fans and demanding the fact that his club "didn't feel this support" over its last two European campaigns.

In the Europa Conference League last season and the Champions League this season, Villa are in seventh place in the Premier League and in a battle with five other teams to secure the remaining four Champions League qualification spots on offer.

Manchester United are also in the Europa League semi-finals and holds a 4-0 lead over Athletic Bilbao on the first leg in Spain last week. United will be playing a Premier League game on May 18, too against Chelsea.



Joan at Summer acknowledges fans after a press conference ahead of the Italian Open in Rome on Monday. (Reuters)

Ban over, Sinner returns 'home'

Rome: Rarely has an athlete been welcomed back from a doping ban with so much fanfare.

Top ranked tennis player Jannik Sinner was treated to a stadium filled with nearly 5,000 fans for his first practice session at the Italian Open on Monday - the day his three-month banishment from the sport expired.

The training session, which was shown live on local TV, came after Sinner was the most celebrated player in a ceremony to honour the Italian tennis that swept the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup last year. Both trophies were on hand and the Campo Carlo Azeglio crowd belted out Italy's national anthem.

It's the first time that Italy has had a No. 1 player for its home tournament. Sinner was at a loss to explain why he attracts so much attention. "I don't know. Honestly, I think I'm a simple 25-year-old kid. I'm good at playing tennis but I'm not changing the world," he said. "I always remember that I come from a small town of 2,000 people. Being here in Rome and playing in front of so many people is a big deal."

With a schedule to elect a new pope set to begin just down the road at the Vatican on Wednesday, Sinner's return prompted local headlines that declared "Habemus Sinner" - a variant of the Latin words "Habemus Papam."

The settlement raised questions, since it meant that Sinner would not miss any Grand Slams and return at his home tournament. After a first round bye in Rome, he will play his opening match on Saturday.

that are announced from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica when a pope is elected.

The scene at the Foro Italico came in sharp contrast to how Sinner felt back in February when he received a three-month ban on a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"At the start I was a bit confused because I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, Sinner said. "Then I went home and stayed with my family. I tried to understand what was really important to me."

"I know how many sacrifices I made and my daily routine was always practice practice practice. But at the moment, I didn't have any of that. I came to understand that what's important is to measure the people by your side. That they give you the strength to move forward and continue striving."

The settlement was made after World announced a decision last year by the International Tennis Integrity Agency to fully exonerate Sinner for what it deemed to be an accidental contamination by a banned metabolic steroid in March 2024.

The settlement raised questions, since it meant that Sinner would not miss any Grand Slams and return at his home tournament. After a first round bye in Rome, he will play his opening match on Saturday.

Footballer dead

Buenos Aires: Former Argentina defender, Leo Gavran, a member of the team that won the 1978 World Cup, died on Monday at the age of 77, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said.

Gavran also represented Argentina at the 1982 World Cup in Spain, earning a total 34 caps for the national team.

He retired from the international game in 1983.

AC Milan keep hopes alive

Genoa (Italy): AC Milan scored twice in two minutes to beat Genoa 2-1 in Serie A on Monday and keep alive their slim hopes of a place in next year's Champions League.

Genoa substitute Yildirim scored a minute after taking the field to give his side the lead after 6 minutes.

But Rafael Leao levelled, 6 minutes later when his powerful shot was deflected into the net and two minutes later Genoa captain Morten Frendrup put on his own net.

Although Milan remained

in ninth place, they closed the gap on the top four to six points. Juventus are fourth equal on points with Roma and Lazio below it. Three rounds remain.

LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Milan's last three games are against Roma, Fiorentina and Borussia Dortmund. Genoa have lost their last three games and sit at 18th.

Respite for Girona

Girona won for the first time

In 12 league games 1-0 against Mallorca and eased their La Liga relegation fears on Monday. Christian Suarez got the all-important goal in the 10th minute when he pounced on a rebound and scored.

It was the 38-year-old striker's 13th goal for the club since joining from Midtjylland in 2021.

The result lifted Girona six points clear of the relegation zone with four matches remaining. Mallorca stayed at ninth.

AP Reuters

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सकल पत्र व्यवहार
पत्र लिखाना विभाग, देवर, झारखण्ड
सुपौली

इस कार्यवाहक द्वारा आयोजित अध्यापकीय है निम्नलिखित प्रमाण

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सं- NO- 34592, Deoghar (24-25) D] [Widening & Strengthening Work of Menama bypass starting from Sidhokancho Chowk to meet at Ch. 11.2 at Mehama from Km 9.300 to Km 11.200 of NH-133 (total Length- 17.0 Km) को अग्रिम कार्यवाहक के लिए जारी है।

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Dembele fit, coach wants an encore of last week's heroics vs Gunners

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain received a boost ahead of Wednesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg against Arsenal, with Ousmane Dembele passed fit as the French champions look to turn growing squad cohesion into a place in the final.

Dembele, who scored the only goal in last week's 1-0 win at the Emirates Stadium, picked up a muscle injury during that match but will be available at the Parc des Princes.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

"He has been training with the squad for two days so he is available for tomorrow (Wednesday). I have him at my disposal," PSG coach Luis Enrique told a press conference on Tuesday.

It is welcome news for a PSG side whose progress this season has been built less on individual brilliance and more on the kind of collective spirit and tactical maturity that has often eluded them in past European campaigns.

PSG defender Achraf Hakimi said he believes Dembele has recovered well.

"He really wants to play," Hakimi said.

"Ousmane is a different kind of player. He makes you want to go and watch the game in the stadium, he can change the course of a match at any moment. He's a guy with the ball. We're delighted to have him back."



Achraf Hakimi and Ousmane Dembele during training in London on Tuesday (Reuters)

Luis Enrique, brought in to overhaul a team once shaped around marquee stars, has made no secret of his mission to build a unit capable of competing at the highest level.

"This season we've grown so much as a team," he said. "You have to be ready for any scenario and pay attention from start to finish. The target for the coming years is to keep improving the process," he said when asked about last season's semi-final loss to Borussia Dortmund.

That steady evolution was evident in the first leg in London, where PSG's compact shape, aggressive pressing and controlled possession frustrated Arsenal's attacking rhythm.

Defender Achraf Hakimi said the team's new found identity had been key to their run.

"The key is to show our personality with and without the ball and press high," Hakimi said. "Arsenal will need to feel that the Parc des Princes is our home."

PSG's only Champions League final appearance ended in defeat by Bayern Munich in 2020, while Arsenal's sole final was in 2006 when they lost to Barcelona in Paris.

"We will have to be as good

STATS THE WAY

Head to head: Matches played: 6. PSG have won 1. Arsenal 2. Three have ended in draws.

■ Only two teams have reached the Champions League final after losing the first-leg semi-final at home. Ajax beat Panathinaikos in 1995-96 and Tottenham defeated Ajax in 2018-19.

■ Both PSG and Arsenal are bidding to reach their second Champions League final. The French side made it to the final in 2019-20 and the Gunners in 2005-06.

■ After winning the first leg of a European tie away from home, PSG have been eliminated only once (vs Manchester United in 2018-19). Arsenal have never progressed after losing the first leg at home.

■ This is PSG's fifth Champions League semi-final (win 1, loss 3) and a fourth in six seasons. In 2023-24 they lost 0-1 both away and at home against Borussia Dortmund.

■ This is Arsenal's third Champions League semi-final. They beat Villarreal 1-0 on aggregate in 2005-06 but lost 1-4 against Manchester United three seasons later.

Source: Opta

Paris Saint-Germain's Ousmane Dembele during training in Paris, France, on Tuesday. (Reuters)

as last week, but while many expect the same kind of game, I guarantee you it will be completely different," said Luis Enrique.

According to Opta statistics, PSG have won 18 of the 19 ties in which they won a first leg away, while Arsenal have never overturned a home first leg defeat in European competition, losing all five ties. Enrique, however, isn't counting on history ahead of the match at the Parc des Princes.

"We're bound to suffer because our opponents don't have a favourable result," Enrique told reporters.

"We need to match our per-

formance as closely as possible in the first leg to win. We return leg and stay true to our ideas."

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, on the other hand, believes that his team needs to be ready to give their all to reach the Champions League final.

"Excitement, goosebumps, wanting the day to arrive, (the feeling) of being very prepared, very convinced and knowing that the opportunity is to play in a Champions (League) final," Arteta was quoted as saying by ESPN.

"And when you get to that point, you have to give your life for it."

Arsenal will be happy with the return of midfielder Thomas Partey after he missed the first leg through suspension.

For the first leg, such was the shortage of players that Arteta had to name four academy players on the bench. Arsenal still gave PSG a tough fight.

With input from Reuters, AP

OTHER RESULTS

■ Paris Saint-Germain vs Arsenal (12.35am IST Thursday Live on Sony Ten 2 and Sony LIV)

First leg score: PSG 1 Arsenal 0

France minister apologises
France's former interior minister Gerald Darmanin has apologised to Liverpool fans for wrongly blaming them for the chaos at the Stade de France during the 2022 Champions League final in Paris.

Darmanin, now serving as the justice minister, admitted

that security arrangements for the final had been Liverpool and Real Madrid were inadequate, and that his previous public remarks blaming English fans were a mistake. British media reported on Monday.

Fans were caught in dangerous crowd congestion outside the Stade de France before the match, which was delayed for over 30 minutes.

French police were filmed using tear gas on the fans who complained of heavy-handed treatment as they were herded into pens outside the stadium.

side the Stade de France before the match, which was delayed for over 30 minutes. French police were filmed using tear gas on the fans who complained of heavy-handed treatment as they were herded into pens outside the stadium.

Crompton

Fans

Sculpted, Not Made.

With input from Reuters, AP

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Wednesday
7 May 2025

The Telegraph

12

SABYASACHI
MUKHERJEESHAH RUKH
KHANKIARA
ADVANI

MET STARS

INDIAN GLAM
AT FASHION'S
BIGGEST GALA

P 8-11

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BILL KREUTZMANN, BRECKIN MEYER



This is a great time to get involved in creative or team projects. You might receive an inheritance this year. Do not rush into new things without thinking them through fully. Try to simplify your life as much as you can and get back to the basics instead of getting stressed. If you are single, try and meet new people as a new romance could be coming your way.

— Nita Chhotatal

Instagram



BTS SCENES

Smiles, stories, and a whole lot of behind-the-scenes love. Uploaded by @kapilsharma (Kapil Sharma)



MIRROR, MIRROR!

Uploaded by @dishapatri (Disha Patani)

TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotatal



ARIES

DO move on from stagnancy
DON'T allow yourself to get stuck with things you do not believe in
EXPECT to link up all the fragments of thoughts which will make it easier for you to get rid of certain tricky situations



TAURUS

DO mend fences and clear old misunderstandings
DON'T be hesitant
EXPECT to get close to someone from whom you have been estranged



GEMINI

DO take your decision calmly
DON'T confide in someone who does not have your best interest at heart
EXPECT to be sure of the person before you unburden your soul to him or her



CANCER

DO adjust your attitude towards your loved ones
DON'T retaliate
EXPECT to be understanding and accommodating to the needs of others



LEO

DO be courteous and respectful towards the belief of other people
DON'T whine about the hurdles which come across your path
EXPECT to stride across the journey of life with vigour and enthusiasm



VIRGO

DO make new friends and mix with new people
DON'T underestimate your self-worth
EXPECT to impress those around you with your wit and grace



LIBRA

DO question the worthiness of relations
DON'T let your personal problems hamper your progress
EXPECT to sort out your differences if you want to save yourself from some serious trouble



SCORPIO

DO try for cooperation and harmony while tackling any project
DON'T throw your weight around
EXPECT to take the lead and demonstrate your authority



SAGITTARIUS

DO be the way you are with a display of honesty in your every action
DON'T be dishonest in your dealings
EXPECT to lose forever people's faith which you have built over so many years



CAPRICORN

DO continue being sincere and hard-working
DON'T lose faith
EXPECT to feel that your performance is affected because things are out of your control



AQUARIUS

DO share your concerns with a friend or a relative
DON'T go back into the past
EXPECT a psychological problem to cause you a lot of discomfort



PISCES

DO re-evaluate your decisions before making them effective
DON'T be judgemental
EXPECT the day to be full of applause and praise for you

Nita Chhotatal is on



@Divine Grace - Nita Chhotatal



@mysticalguidancebynita

WHATSUP

GLIMPSES FROM ESHO HEY BOISHAKH, ROTARY CLUB'S STAR-STUDED NABABARSHA CELEBRATION

Rotary Club's Esho Hey Boishakh was a slightly delayed yet glamorous welcome of the Bengali New Year. The Poila Boishakh event, held at Urbana recently, was attended by guests such as Babul Supriyo, Ishaa Saha, and many more. With meaningful *adda*, soulful music and lip-smacking food, the event delivered on all dimensions of a complete Bengali experience in the truest sense. The *adda* sessions, moderated by Arindam Sil, seemed like full-fledged TED Talks on socio-cultural topics, ranging from colonialism in Bengali food to AI in art and music, accompanied by personal reflections from the guests. Spectacular musical and dance performances were peppered throughout the conversations, and the night came to a close with a delightful spread catered by Mitra Cafe and Tiswa's Kitchen.

Highlights from the evening.

Ansh Banerjee (t2 intern)



"Even in tough times, we Bengalis find a way to celebrate. I really enjoyed the *adda*, music and a feast that brought comfort, especially the Mutton Koshha I hadn't had in so long. I wore my favourite blue *mulmul* sari with an orange blouse and matching earrings. It's my *mulmul* sarees and me against this hot and humid weather," said Ishaa Saha.

The final performance of the evening came from the talented husband-wife duo, Somchanda Bhattacharya and Shubham Banerjee. "I had a wonderful time celebrating Poila Boishakh with Rotary Club members. Although I couldn't celebrate on the 15th, this day compensated for it. I also found the perfect excuse to wear a saree despite the heat — this soft, powder-pink one gifted by my husband was both comfortable and beautiful," said Somchanda.



(L-R) Debasish Sen, Babul Supriyo and Arindam Sil actively participated in the evening's activities. Babul Supriyo sang *Purano shei diner kotha*



BIG SCREEN

ENGLISH

THE LEGEND OF OCHI (UA): Inox Quest (1.15)

THUNDERBOLTS (UA): Inox Quest (9.11.50, 2.40, 5.30, 8.20, 11.10), Inox South City (9.05, 11.55, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25, 11.15), Inox Forum (10.15, 4.20, 7.10, 10), Inox Salt Lake (9.05, 2.45, 5.25, 11.15), Inox Rajarhat (9.10, 2.55, 11.25), Inox Hilland (2.15, 10.45), Inox Hind (10.6.40), PVR Avani (8pm), PVR Mani Square (9.05, 5.20, 8.10, 11), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.25, 5.20, 11), PVR Unworld Downtown (11am, 10.30pm), RDB Cinemas (9.15am, 8pm)

UNTIL DAWN (A): Inox Quest (noon)

HINDI

THE BHOOTNILI (UA): Inox Quest (5.10, 10.50) RDB Cinemas (1.50)

GROUND ZERO (UA): Inox Quest (2.20) Inox South City (noon)

HIT: THE THIRD CASE (A): RDB Cinemas (11.45am)

KESARI CHAPTER 2: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JALUANWALA BAGH (A):

Inox Quest (9.40, 7.55, 9.30), Inox South City (10.10, 6.20, 10.55), Inox Salt Lake (11.55, 5.35, 11.30), Inox Rajarhat (10.05, noon, 8.35, 11.35), Inox Hilland (10.20, 1.10, 9.30), Inox Hind (12.50), PVR Avani (noon, 5.40, 8.35, 11.30), PVR Mani Square (9.5.35, 11.20), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.45, 11.05), PVR Unworld Downtown (1.50), RDB Cinemas (5.20, 10.30)

RAID 2 (UA): Inox Quest (9.10.30, 11.30, 12.35, 1.30, 2.30, 3.35, 4.30, 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30), Inox South City (9.10.10, 11.15, 1.15, 2.15, 3.20, 4.15, 5.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.15), Inox Forum (10.11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), Inox Salt Lake (10.30, 11.30, 1.30, 2.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30, 11.30), Inox Rajarhat (9.10, noon, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10), Inox Hilland (10.11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), Inox Hind (10.30, 1.30, 3.40, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30, 10.30), Inox Metro (11, 1, 2, 5, 8,



RAID 2

9.35, 11), PVR Avani (9.10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), PVR Mani Square (9.45, 11, 12.45, 2, 3.45, 5, 6.45, 8, 9.45, 11), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), PVR Unworld Downtown (10.11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), RDB Cinemas (9.30, 11, 12.20, 3, 5.45, 7.10, 8.30, 10, 11.15), SVF Cinemas, Narendrapur (9.11.40, 2.20, 5.7.40, 10.20), SVF Cinemas, Howrah (9.11.35, 2.10, 4.45, 7.20, 10), SVF Cinemas, Baripur Show House (11, 1.45, 4.30, 7.15)

THUNDERBOLTS (UA): Inox Rajarhat (5.45), Inox Hilland (9.10, 7.55), Inox Metro (10.10, 4), PVR Avani (9.10, 2.25, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (noon), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.30, 8.10), PVR Unworld Downtown (4.45), RDB Cinemas (2.50)

BENGALI

PURATAWN — THE ANCIENT (UA): Inox South City (3.05), Inox Salt Lake (3.40), Inox Rajarhat (1pm), Inox Hilland (noon)

SHREEMAN V/S SHREEMATI (UA): Inox Quest (6.35), Inox South City (2.50, 5.30, 8.10), Inox Salt Lake (1pm), Inox Rajarhat (3.20, 6.05), Inox Hilland (4, 8.45), Inox Metro (5.50), PVR Avani (2.55, 5.15), PVR Mani Square (2.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (noon, 5.35, 8.20), RDB Cinemas (4.30)

TECH

GOOGLE'S NOTEBOOKLM APP IS COMING TO ANDROID AND iOS



Google's NotebookLM app is expected to be released in late May, but you can pre-register to be notified when the download is live

Google's plan to put Gemini in every one of its products is happening at a rapid pace. One AI product that many are looking forward to is NotebookLM, which helps parse documents, videos and more using Google's advanced AI models. It has been available on the web since 2023, but Google recently said it would get an Android app, which is available for pre-install.

NotebookLM aims to help students, professionals, and researchers better understand complex information through features like smart summaries and the ability to ask questions about documents and other materials. It even lets you generate AI podcasts, called Audio Overviews, to make it easier to digest complex topics.

At the moment, NotebookLM exists on a website. You can visit it on your phone, but the interface is not user friendly compared to the desktop version. The mobile app will change that. The app is expected to be released at Google I/O in late May but you can pre-register to be notified when the download is live.

NotebookLM banks on the same technology as Google's other chatbots and AI projects, but instead of a general purpose robot, NotebookLM is focused on documents you upload. It can assimilate text files, websites, and videos, including multiple files and source types for a single agent. There is a context window of 500,000 tokens and supports document uploads as large as 200MB. Google says this creates a queryable "AI expert" that can answer detailed questions and discuss ideas based on the source data.

According to screenshots on the app listings, the dedicated app will allow users to create new notebooks and view the ones they have already created. They can also upload new sources from their device and view the ones they have already uploaded in each of the notebooks.

Besides mobile, the apps will be available on iPads and tablets, where you'll have a bigger screen to multitask.

Mathures Paul

APPLE VISION PRO GETS ITS FIRST FEATURE FILM WITH BONO TAKING THE STAGE

Apple Vision Pro, the spatial computing headset, is getting its first full length immersive film — Bono. *Stories of Surrender*, a concert-style "documentary event". But wipe those tears, it will also be available on Apple TV+.

Based on his memoir, it uses 180-degree video capture in 8K resolution, aiming to create a detailed visual experience. Apple's Spatial Audio technology is also used, making sounds appear to come from specific points around the listener to increase the feeling that you are there during the performance.

The film has been in the making for sometime. During the pandemic, Bono spent time with U2 member The Edge, reworking and re-recording a catalogue of the band's greatest hits for an album titled *Songs of Surrender*, which was released in March 2023. The 40-track LP was accompanied by a documentary titled *Bono & The Edge: A Sort of Homecoming*, as well as Bono's memoir, *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*.

The singer continues his journey in *Bono: Stories of Surrender*. The Apple documentary, directed in black-and-white by Andrew Dominik and it will have its world premiere at Cannes Film Festival later this month.

Apple has said in a statement: "[Bono] pulls back the curtain on a remarkable



life and the family, friends, and faith that have challenged and sustained him, revealing personal stories about his journey as a son, father, husband, activist and rockstar. Along with never before-seen, exclusive footage from the Beacon Theatre shows, the film features Bono performing many of the iconic U2 songs that have shaped his life and legacy."

Bono: Stories of Surrender will arrive on Apple TV+ on May 30 and simultaneously be available in Apple Immersive Video for Vision Pro users. An abridged and updated edition of Bono's memoir will be released in conjunction with the documentary.

Mathures Paul

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Priyanka Roy

AAMAR BOSS STAR **RAKHEE** SHARES ANECDOTES OF DILIP KUMAR, AMITABH BACHCHAN AND AMJAD KHAN AS SHIBOPROSAD MUKHERJEE TURNS INTERVIEWER FOR **t2**

Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee's upcoming film *Aamar Boss* has sparked anticipation and excitement among fans, as they eagerly wait for the release of the film in theatres on May 9. One of the highlights of *Aamar Boss* is the presence of Rakhee, who returns to films after 22 years. Having enjoyed a dazzlingly successful career of charming performances across genres, Rakhee plays a caring mother to her devoted son (played by Shiboprosad) in the mother-son relationship film. Recently, Rakhee and Shiboprosad got together for a t2 chat at Taj Bengal. Excerpts.

Shiboprosad: Through this conversation, I would like you to share some rare anecdotes from the past. You had once shared a story of Dilip Kumar rustling up an omelette on the road during the shoot of *Shakti*.

Rakhee: No, not an omelette. Dilip Saab would arrive on the set and ask for the pages of his dialogue. He carried an ink pen and would take the sheaf of papers and go sit underneath a tree. One day, I saw him slapping himself. He was reprimanding himself. "You don't remember your lines," he was telling himself.

One day, as we were travelling to a location for the shoot, he told us to stop and follow him. Everyone from the unit followed him to a shop by the roadside. "How are you, Bhalya?" he asked the shopkeeper. Once the shopkeeper realised who he was speaking to, he was flabbergasted. I cannot conjure up that expression here. "Do you have a saucepan?" Dilip Saab asked him. "Yes," he said. "Do you have a brick?" The shopkeeper said that he can get it for him. "Give me a saucepan, water and a brick," Dilip Saab told him. Then we understood the whole story. Dilip Saab had already packed 20 kgs of biryani in the cars for everyone from the unit. But that biryani did not have eggs in it. So he decided to rustle up boiled eggs by the roadside.

I remember another incident where the director Ramesh Sippy wasn't satisfied with one of the scenes for a romantic song. Dilip Saab was supposed to turn in a certain way... and he made Dilip Saab give retakes of that shot 27 times to get it right. "You are looking like Dilip Kumar and not the character," said Sippy.

Shiboprosad: You had fallen off a horse once...
Rakhee: Since I did not want a 'duplicate' to do that scene, I wanted to do it on my own. I was



Rakhee and Shiboprosad Mukherjee

a perfectionist. You see this mark on my forehead? I got it during the shoot of a Dulal Guha film. I believe that to gain something, you have to give. Gains often come with sacrifices.

Shiboprosad: You had worked with Amitabh Bachchan in quite a few films. How did you develop that chemistry? Tell us about the jacket episode!

Rakhee: This was years before Amitabh Bachchan became the Amitabh Bachchan. I was shooting for a film directed by Lekh Tandon and Amitabh had come to the shoot with his friends. We had planned to go to Agra. Amitabh said that he would also come along with us. We all got into the Ambassadors. It was winter and suddenly we were hit with a foul smell. We all tried to figure out the source of that smell and finally realised it was coming from his jacket. He told us that someone had got the jacket for him from Kabul. We doused the jacket with all the perfumes we could get our hands on.

Shiboprosad: He would call you Bourani.

Rakhee: Yes, that is because of Jaya (Bachchan)... Jaya would call me Bourani. I never thought of him as my hero... and because of that our chemistry developed.

Shiboprosad: When I first met you to narrate the story of *Aamar Boss*,

you had told me then that you had seen our films and your favourite film is *Haami*.

Rakhee: Yes, because the story was beautiful. Many years ago, the film *Laila Bhulu* was made for children. But then people stopped making children's films. I really liked the subject of *Haami*... and I feel you should make the film in Hindi.

Shiboprosad: You had told me then that if we offer you a script which has a heart-touching, sweet subject and you like it, then

you'll act in our film. You had told me that it had to be a bound script and that I had to go to Bombay and narrate it to you there.

Rakhee: Shibhu has this brightness in his eyes! They speak volumes. I had seen Shibhu act in *Haami* and then I came up with the suggestion that he play the role of my



A moment from *Aamar Boss*, which releases in theatres on May 9

son in *Aamar Boss*. The lullaby we shot for rings so true in the film.

Shiboprosad: How was your experience working with Nandita Roy?

Rakhee: She has that hint of a smile at the corner of her mouth... and that's how we would understand that the scene had come out well.

Shiboprosad: In the film, you are our boss! Incidentally, (actor) Amjad Khan would call you: 'Teen foot ka Dada.'
Rakhee: Amjad was a very learned man, a thorough gentleman... but after *Sholay*, his image went through a complete transformation. Kids were scared of him. I had done many films with him. Things got to such a stage that he faced problems while trying to get his daughter admitted to a school. He then came to me and told me the situation and then I had a word with the principal, who had harboured this wrong notion about him, which was built around his public image post *Sholay*. "I told her that he (Amjad) was a thorough gentleman."

Shiboprosad: Who is your closest friend in the film industry? We hear that it is Salim Khan.

Rakhee: Gulzar, Salim and Javed (Akhtar) wrote scripts for the productions of GP Sippy. I have known Salim since then. I have seen Salman Khan and his brothers since they were kids. Talking about the Salim-Javed screenplays, Javed would write all the witty lines. And as an actor, I would always focus on the scripts.

Shiboprosad: Give us the names of a few eateries in Calcutta which you would like to visit.
Rakhee: Radhu Babu's shop, Chung Wah, Waldorf... we would enjoy the cutlet from a coffee shop... I can't remember the name. Also, the *beguni* and *phuluri* from a sweet shop in Dum Dum.

Shiboprosad: *Aamar Boss* has a connection with Sukumar Ray. When I had called you for your home address, you had recited a poem.
Rakhee: (Starts laughing).

Arindam Chatterjee
Picture: Subhadip Basak

CAMPUS

XAVIER'S COMMERCE SOCIETY CELEBRATES 17TH EDITION OF INSIGNIA WITH POMP AND SPLENDOUR, WITH THE TELEGRAPH



Team XCS posed for a group picture with comedian Harsh Gujral on the first day



The inaugural ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ, principal of St. Xavier's College (Calcutta); Rev. Fr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ, vice-principal of department of commerce (Morning); and Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam, SJ, vice-principal of department of commerce (Evening). Alongside student representative Riya Kedia, they lit the ceremonial lamp, officially marking the commencement of the fest.



Moderated by Kushal Jindal and Pratham V. Shah, the entrepreneurship event's 'Gilded Gamble' round saw Priyanshu Saraf and Raunak Khetan from St. Xavier's College emerge victorious with sharp strategy and creativity.

The commerce society of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, unfurled an engaging chapter of ambition and strategy with the 17th edition of Insignia 2025, in association with The Telegraph. Themed 'Reign of Resurgence', the national-level management fest, was held across

three days at the college campus, recently. With the college campus decked out keeping the theme of grandeur and Imperial France in mind, the event witnessed participation of students from across India, including Shri Ram College of Commerce, Hansraj College, Master's Union, Bhawanipur Education Society

College, J.D. Birla Institute, Scottish Church College and more. From intense boardroom battles to spontaneous wit on stage, the fest was a confluence of intellect, creativity and camaraderie. Celebrity guest Harsh Gujral crowned the fest with his comic brilliance. Glimpses



On the first day, moderator Yug Patwari addressed participants of the event named Contingent, where students segregated themselves into groups as per their choice in different departments, like entrepreneurship, marketing or finance, and the game was conducted simultaneously in different departments. Students of Master's Union, a B-school in Haryana, delivered an outstanding performance to claim victory.



The auction segment of Public and International Relations event saw participants showcase sharp strategy. Suhas Pulluru and Manraj Singh Bhullar from team Master's Union emerged victorious.



Joint secretaries of XCS Hemaansh Mohta (left) and Devansh Jogani.

"At Xavier's Commerce Society, we strive to create a platform where ideas meet execution, where learning goes beyond textbooks. Insignia brings together the brightest minds to push boundaries and redefine excellence in commerce and management," said Devansh. Hemaansh added: "In XCS, we unlock potential and grow together."



Shreyases Dutta (t2 intern)
Pictures courtesy: XCS

SESSION 2025-2026

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2025 MET GALA: SRK'S ROYAL DEBUT, KIARA'S COUTURE MOTHERHOOD & DILJIT'S PUNJABI CHIC LED A NIGHT OF BLACK DANDYISM, TAILORING FANTASIES AND THEATRICS

Shah Rukh Khan colonised the MET Gala, sporting a Sabyasachi tuxedo-cape so opulent, it seemed capable of rewriting global economies. Making history as the first male Bollywood actor to step onto the iconic carpet, King Khan approached the evening with the kind of grace that suggested he was already ruling New York City. With a diamond-studded tiger cane and the aura of royalty, SRK turned the 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' theme of MET Gala 2025 into pure South Asian swagger. think vintage Calcutta darbar meets Harlem Renaissance drip. Shah Rukh didn't walk the carpet. He conquered it.

This year's co-chairs of 'fashion's biggest night' were Colman Domingo, Lewis Hamilton, A\$AP Rocky, Pharrell Williams, and, of course, MET Gala matriarch, Anna Wintour. LeBron James was an honorary chair but couldn't attend due to a knee injury. There's also a

host committee made up of 25 other stars. The exhibition was inspired by the concept of Black dandyism, a style that reclaims and celebrates the history and transformation of Black fashion.

Rooted in the experiences of the African diaspora, the theme highlighted the powerful intersection of fashion, identity, and autonomy, showcasing how Black individuals have evolved from being stylised as symbols of wealth to becoming global trendsetters in their own right.

Kiara Advani debuted at the MET Gala in a Gaurav Gupta creation titled Bravehearts. Crafted to honour the maternal form, her look featured a metallic breastplate shaped like a heart and a sinuous train that symbolised an umbilical cord. The silhouette whispered futuristic mum-core. Pregnancy



1

1 KIARA ADVANI slayed her MET Gala debut in a jaw-dropping Gaurav Gupta gown, celebrating motherhood and transformation. The sculpted gold breastplate, with its striking umbilical cord detailing, symbolized both defiance and legacy. Paired with a dramatic white cape that echoed André Leon Talley's bold style, Kiara's look was a powerful narrative of strength, femininity, and personal evolution.

2 KING KHAN's MET Gala debut was a bold fusion of heritage and maximalism. Striking his signature pose at the blue carpet in his floor-length Tasmanian wool coat, with exaggerated peak lapels and monogrammed Japanese horn buttons, SRK radiated old-world sophistication in Sabyasachi. Tailored wool trousers and a pleated cummerbund completed the look. The Bengal Tiger Head Cane, crafted in 18k gold and encrusted with sapphires and diamonds, was a statement of cultural pride. Custom necklaces, stacked rings, and bracelets added opulence, while gold-rimmed sunglasses and immaculate hair finished off his regal, powerful ensemble.

3 Embroidered Gur mukh his cape as DILJIT DOSA debut. In a custom Prabhe embodied regal splen Bhopinder Singh's gran gold embroidery, and th while Golecha jewellery and bespoke Cartier-ins cultural pride. A fearless Asian heritage, Diljit's l with bold elegance and s

couture has officially entered the MET chat, and Kiara was not the only participant. But she was, by far, its most glowing member.

And then "Punjabi aa gaye oye!" **Dijit Dosanjh** waltzed in, royal as ever, in a white Prabal Gurung number embroidered with Gurmukhi calligraphy. With heirloom-inspired jewels stacked on his fingers and that signature turban tilt, Dijit channelled Sikh royalty with a smirk and a wink, in the way only he can.

MET Gala veteran **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** kept it easy in Balmain polkas, while husband Nick Jonas swooned over her, helping her with her dress and her huge hat.

Our dest couturiers weren't just background credits. **Sabyasachi Mukherjee** and **Manish Malhotra** had an undeniable presence on the carpet, dressing stars from Bollywood royalty to international glamazons. MM

debuted at the MET too while dressing several attendees.

Natasha Poonawalla was, as expected, a walking editorial — corseted, bejewelled and over-the-top, while paying homage to the Parsi side of her family. **Isha Ambani** pulled off an Anamika Khanna number but the highlight was her borrowed heirloom jewellery from mum Nita Ambani.

It was an evening drenched in hues of blacks, whites and greys. The trends were loud and deliberate: pinstripes, wide-brimmed hats, hip hugging skirts, tuxedo gowns, textual elements and dandy-inspired maximalism. Think Josephine Baker meets Andre Leon Talley in a Harlem speakeasy. From Kiara Advani's umbilical cord-feature to Colman Domingo's pleated cape tribute, the night was dripping in homage and haute.

In the end, 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' wasn't just a theme. It was a revolution in satin lapels and ancestral memory, and this year, the MET didn't whisper fashion — it roared.



3



4



5



6



8

ISHA AMBANI, a regular attendee of the Gala, embodied modern maharani glamour in a sculpted Anamika Khanna look — corseted white bodice, tailored black trousers, and a sweeping embroidered coat. Her heirloom jewels, including a 1931 Maharajah necklace and beige diamond ring, added gravitas. A pearl dragonfly clip and surreal brooches sealed the look in quiet magnificence.

7 A fishtail skirt crafted from heirloom Parsi Gara saris, bold Gara jacket and lace bralette created a dynamic blend of strength and grace. Intricate embroidery, pearls, and an imperial purple lining made the Manish Malhotra ensemble the perfect outfit for the maximalist in **NATASHA POONAWALLA**.

7

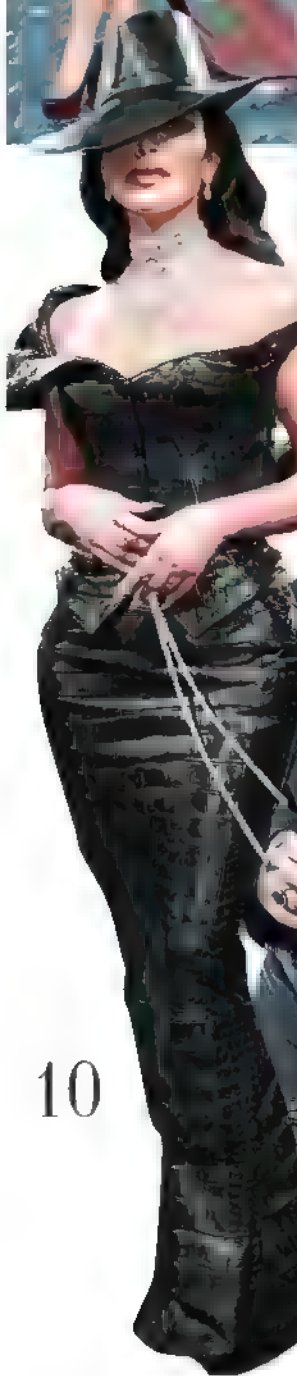
letters shone proudly on **DIJIT DOSANJH** made his MET Gala debut, evoking Maharaja decor. A white turban, intricate embroidery, including a ceremonial sword and a wide-brimmed hat, added layers of a mix of dandyism and South Asian redefined masculinity with striking detail.

4 **MANISH MALHOTRA** cut a sleek silhouette as he became the second Indian couturier to hit the MET Gala red carpet after Sabyasachi. He owned the night with a daring fusion of Indian opulence and global edge. A sharply cut white shirt, sleek black trousers, and a gilded waistcoat were topped with a cape dripping in gold threadwork. Symbolic brooches — a tiger and an elephant while emeralds sparkled like they knew their worth. The ensemble was drenched with Indian embroidery with a signatory MM flare.

5 **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS**'s 2025 Met Gala look is a study in elegance, but it feels somewhat restrained for the biggest fashion night. The polka-dotted Balmain dress and the emerald Bulgari necklace are standout elements. The wide-brimmed hat and gloves nod to dandyism, but they don't quite elevate the ensemble beyond the expected. Though beautiful, it feels safe — not quite pushing boundaries as one might hope on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum.

6 Apart from dressing Shah Rukh Khan for his debut, **SABYASACHI MUKHERJEE** also walked the blue carpet for the second time, in a look that was a masterstroke in cultural reclamation. A quilted ivory overcoat paired with a pearl-buttoned shirt and sculptural cummerbund exuded regal elegance. The emerald choker and marigold-plumed hat were bold symbols of postcolonial pride, blending Indian aristocracy with Black Dandyism.

▶ FROM PAGE 9



9 **RIHANNA** did not just announce her third baby with ASAP Rocky, she shut down the MET Gala carpet in peak power-dresser mode. Dressed in custom Marc Jacobs, she served boss energy in a boned corset, slit wool skirt, cropped jacket and a classic shirt layered with a polka-dot tie. Known for never disappointing at the MET Gala, RiRi's sleek top hat, diamond brooches and baby bump sealed the slay.

10 **KIM KARDASHIAN**'s black leather cowgirl look with a side of pearls and diamonds certainly made an entrance, but let's be honest, nothing will ever top that wet Mugler moment from Camp Notes on Fashion in 2019. This year's Western-inspired ensemble was sharp, sleek and covered in diamonds, but it was a little less "wow" and a little more "well, it's Kim." Still, she managed to stand out. Just not quite like she did in 2019.

11 **SABRINA CARPENTER** ditched the trousers and stole the show in a custom oxblood Louis Vuitton blazer bodysuit. Sharp, sparkly and sass-laced, the Pharrell-approved look was pure power-play — no pants, no problem. With a sun-kissed glow and cheeky charm, Sabrina served tailored drama in an OOTN that undoubtedly makes it to our best-dressed list!

12 **MADONNA** lit up the MET Gala quite literally in an ivory silk Tom Ford suit and a smouldering cigar to match. Leaning into the theme with boss-grade flair, the 66-year-old Queen of Pop gave androgyny a sultry twist, pairing high-waisted trousers with a cropped shirt, lace gloves and a knowing smirk. She was on theme, on fire, and undeniably on our best-dressed list — smoke and all.

13 **DIANA ROSS** didn't just return to the MET Gala after 22 years — she descended like royalty draped in sequins and sentiment. Her custom white gown, dreamed up with her son Evan and designer Ugo Mozie, came complete with an 18-foot train embroidered with the names of her children and grandchildren. It was part couture, part family tree, and wholly fabulous. Honestly, if legacy dressing is the new trend, everyone else might as well pack it up.

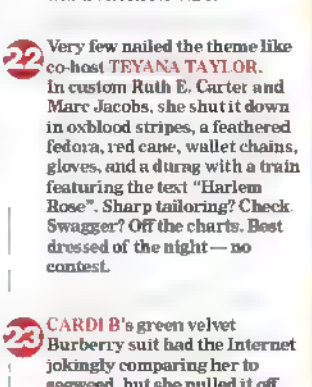
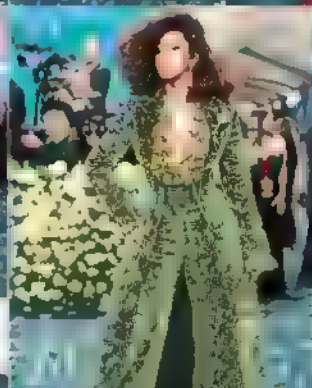
14 **KENDALL JENNER** ticked every expected MET Gala box — tailored, tasteful, vaguely referential — but her look felt more committee-approved than couture moment. Chic? Sure. Groundbreaking? Not quite. If Superfine: Tailoring Black Style was the homework, the supermodel handed in the neatest, most predictable answer in the class.

15 **EMMA CHAMBERLAIN**, one of the first to arrive at the 2025 MET Gala and a host this year, turned heads with her daring take on pinstripes. While many played it safe, Emma opted for a backless pinstripe suit dress with a trail, pairing it with sheer gloves... both fashion-forward and far from boring.

16 Custom cream Louis Vuitton was the star of **ZENDAYA**'s look, a perfect example of sleek tailoring with no pinstripes in sight — thank God! The suit was paired with a matching hat and she flaunted red nails and an engagement ring that stole the show.

17 Monogrammed LV, burgundy silk bowtie, checkerboard shorts — **DOECHII** stunned 2025 MET Gala. The cigar in hand? Pure confidence. She waltzed onto the blue carpet with Tiffany jewellery and a natural Afro, nailing the theme. Definitely one of the best-dressed of the evening!

FASHION



18 **GIGI HADID** brought chic to the MET Gala carpet in a custom golden Miu Miu gown, honouring Zelda Wynn Valdes and the theme. Styled by Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, she worked a sleek Victory Roll and silver accessories like a Goddess. No sign of "her man" Bradley Cooper, but she did mention him on the blue carpet. A little MET Gala tease never hurt!

19 Featuring a velvet ocelot-print bustier and exaggerated shoulder pads, **DOJA CAT** commanded attention in a Marc Jacobs pinstriped bodysuit. The bold, '80s-inspired look, paired with black tights and Kiki boots, was a striking mix of sharp lines and fluidity, underscored by a dramatic wool jacket top. Going pantless was definitely trending on the blue carpet.

20 **LIZZO** arrived with platinum blonde hair and a custom Christian Siriano gown that screamed 'drama'. A cream and black corset paired with a cropped jacket and a diamond-studded floating skirt had everyone turning heads.

21 We love a Manish Malhotra moment on the MET Gala carpet! **COCO JONES** served up elegance in a cream and white embroidered masterpiece, complete with a dramatic train and shirtless chic beneath the sharp-lapelled coat. With a dazzling diamond necklace, Jimmy Choo heels, a loooong braid and floral inspiration cascading down her look, she was a vision for sure.

22 Very few nailed the theme like co-host **TEYANA TAYLOR**. In custom Ruth E. Carter and Marc Jacobs, she shut it down in oxblood stripes, a feathered fedora, red cane, wallet chains, gloves, and a durag with a train featuring the text "Harlem Rose". Sharp tailoring? Check. Swagger? Off the charts. Best dressed of the night — no contest.

23 **CARDI B**'s green velvet Burberry suit had the Internet jokingly comparing her to seaweed, but she pulled it off with style. The Burberry look, complete with a daring back cutout, plunging neckline and Afro hair, showcased her fearless fashion flair.

24 He not just owned the racetrack! Formula One legend **LEWIS HAMILTON** dropped jaws on the MET steps. In custom Grace Wales Bonner — silk tailcoat, cowrie sash, vintage jewels — he served culture, couture, and co-chair realness. Fastest on four wheels and best dressed? By a mile!

25 **RAD BUNNY** was back at the MET — and hotter than a Caribbean summer. In a brown Prada suit, glitzy gloves and a pava hat worthy of a revolution, he repped Puerto Rico with flair, sparkle and just the right amount of chaos. Benito, bendito... you've still got it.

26 **COLMAN DOMINGO** didn't just co-chair the 2025 MET Gala — he pulled off the most elegant costume change of the night. Draped in a regal cobalt Valentino cape paying homage to Andre Leon Talley, the actor hit the carpet looking every bit the fashion statesman. But plot twist! Off came the cape to reveal a razor-sharp monochrome blazer, polka-dot scarf, pinstripes and Boucheron bling. A lesson in dandy drama? Without a doubt.

27 **JENNIE**, the K-pop icon, showed up in a stunning white strapless Chanel dress. With pearl details, a split hem and a chic two-tone boater hat, she brought major Audrey Hepburn vibes. She embodied old Hollywood glam. Black dandyism? Not so sure.

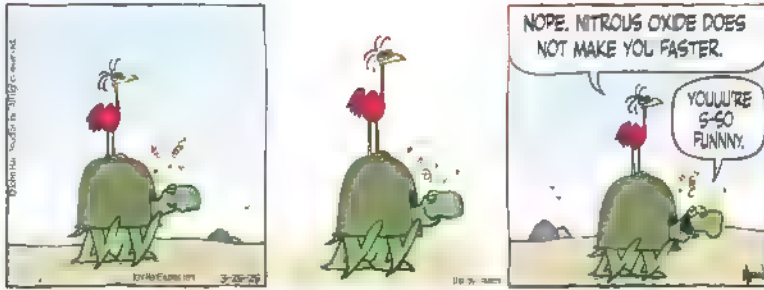
28 As co-chair of the 2025 MET Gala, **ASAP ROCKY** brought Harlem to the red carpet in a self-designed AWGE parka double-breasted, dandy, and very "dad-on-duty chic." Inspired by Marmot jackets from his youth, it came tailored like a tux and trimmed with velvet (because why not?!) He styled it with satin boxers, Louboutins and Bulgari bling.

29 MET debutante **CHAPPELL ROAN** didn't follow the theme — she *was* the theme. Draped in glittery pink and gold with matching tear tracks and drag flair, Roan turned the MET Gala into her own Pink Pony Club. Subtle? Never heard of that!

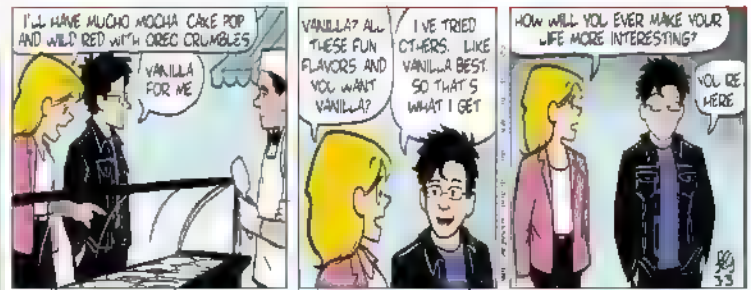
Sanjoli Brahma

Pictures: Reuters and Getty Images

B.C. by Johnny Hart



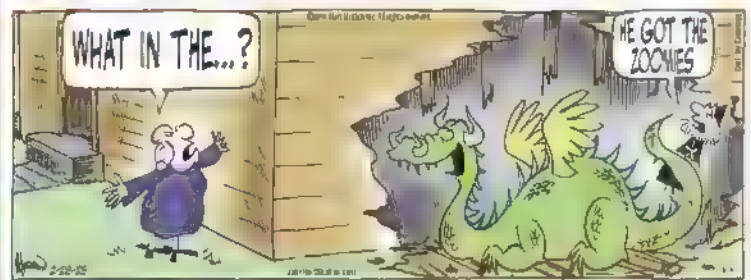
Luann by Greg Evans



Peanuts by Charles Schulz



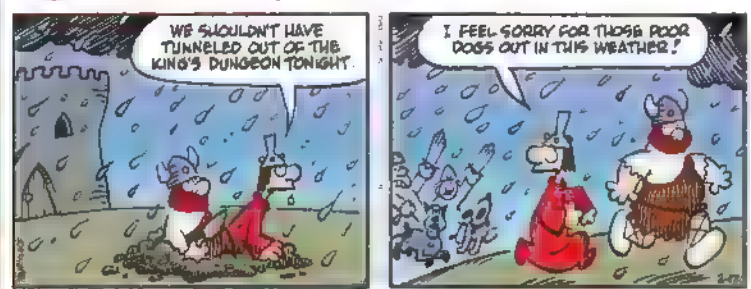
The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



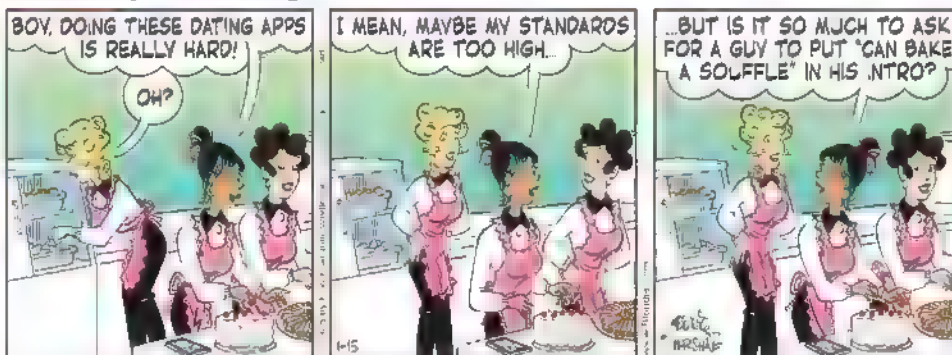
Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



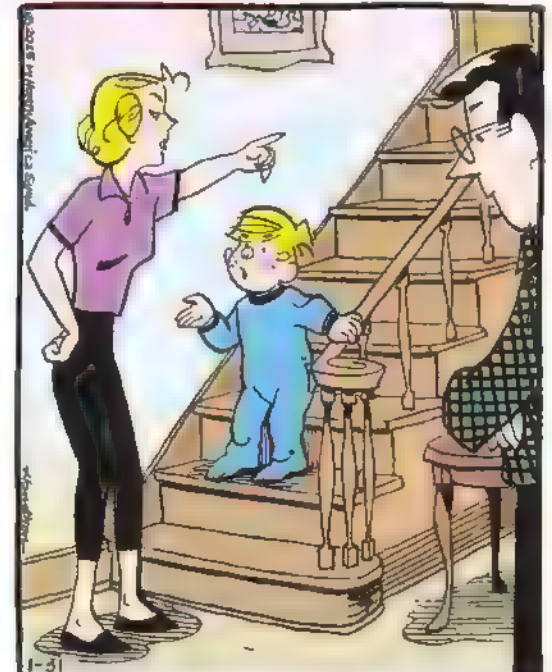
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



Blondie by Dean Young



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



PUZZLE

11642

SUDOKU MODERATE

	7						1	
				6	4			
6				5				7
	6	9	3				1	
	4			9	1			6
		5			8	4	3	
5				1				2
			2	7				
	9							5

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11640 is on the right

9	4	8	2	3	7	1	6	5
6	3	1	9	5	4	2	8	7
2	5	7	8	1	6	9	3	4
7	9	3	4	2	5	6	1	8
8	6	5	1	9	3	4	7	2
1	2	4	7	6	8	3	5	9
3	8	2	6	7	9	5	4	1
4	1	6	5	8	2	7	9	3
5	7	9	3	4	1	8	2	6

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11643

SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

9				4				
		3				9	5	
	2			1			6	
			5			7		
		5				4	9	
	2				9			
8							2	
4			7		3			
			8					6

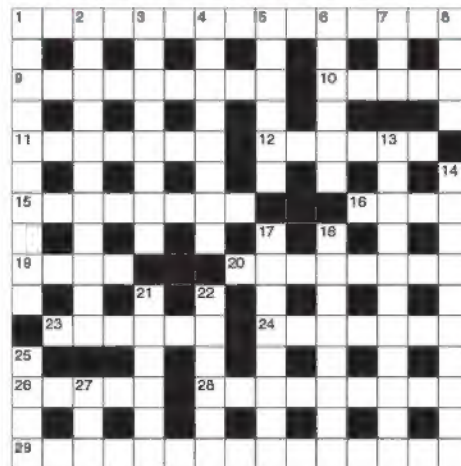
Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11641 is on the right

9	4	1	5	3	8	2	6	7
3	7	2	4	6	1	8	5	9
8	5	6	2	7	9	1	3	4
4	2	3	9	5	6	7	1	8
6	8	5	7	1	2	9	4	3
7	1	9	8	4	3	5	2	6
5	6	8	3	2	7	4	9	1
1	9	4	6	8	5	3	7	2
2	3	7	1	9	4	6	8	5

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14678

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 On the rocks, I can drag sand to son's bucket (4,4,3,4)
- 9 Watch hourglass for cheats (3-6)
- 10 For speech, remained sober (5)
- 11 Short City fraud extremely idiotic (7)
- 12 What disturbed cuckoo in Middle Wallop? (6)
- 15 Spielberg initially accompanying shoot inspired by The Birds (8)
- 16 Sat by me regularly? It's irritating (4)
- 19 American with a year on holiday (4)
- 20 German and Irish advanced in submarine (8)
- 23 Left defeated (6)
- 24 51 feet behind carriage, emergency transport (7)
- 26 Pay for entertainment (5)
- 28 Team's creative linchpin may sparkle in action with seconds to go (9)

Yesterday's solution

DOGSBODY WICKED
ELR OBN LLE
CHARACTERISTICS
EDV T A T ME
NAIVETY COASTER
T O R E N T
PLAYBALL TRUCE
CU P E E N D
OASIS PATIENCE
N U E X H I
TRUMPET CAPTAIN
E S P I H L N T
SLIPOFTHETONGUE
T N R E A D E N
8IGHTS SPLENDID

- 29 Rude jokes and drinks entertaining English nurse and doctor after ten (6,9)

DOWN

- 1 Put out chops and old banger (10)
- 2 Press Blunt at home after answer reveals political divide (4,7)
- 3 Elegance of band on head (8)
- 4 Knight enters Chester suffering cuts (8)
- 5 Things worth having, like plants (8)
- 6 Reject racket broken by seed (8)
- 7 Virginia holding up round eggs (3)
- 8 Foam in the south of France beginning to spray (4)
- 13 Urbane and slippery sort, one taken in by sly cricket shot (4,7)
- 14 We're on board at Paddington! Relaxed, rest up and read (10)
- 17 Popular prince followed by crawler - it might get up your nose! (8)
- 18 Getting 1 Across should be easy for him! (8)
- 21 The Spanish must support army shelter (6)
- 22 Subjects Pola fails in addition to PE (6)
- 25 Boss and apprentice leaving hospital department (4)
- 27 Australian resident cuts the mustard (3)

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VRBAO

NICIG

TALCET

CAEYNG



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MIDST HOBBY DRAGON UNLIKE
Answer: After making a joke about his wife's weight gain, he'd need to — LIGHTEN THE MOOD

14330

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Odd; drink (3)
- 3 Male (3)
- 5 Money owing (4)
- 7 Ancient Peruvians (5)
- 8 Robust (6)
- 10 Vortex (4)
- 11 Overdone masculinity (8)
- 13 Opportune (6)

DOWN

- 14 Expert (6)
- 17 Nightdress (8)
- 19 Stupor (4)
- 21 Frolic (6)
- 22 Bright blue (5)
- 23 Elapse (4)
- 24 Deep container (3)
- 25 Request (3)
- 1 Imitation gem (10)
- 2 Road surface (7)

3 The majority (4)

- 4 Bahamas capital; saunas (anag) (6)
- 5 Ring-shaped cake (8)
- 6 Portends (5)
- 9 Traffic jam (10)
- 12 Chicago's state (8)
- 16 Stoker novel (7)
- 18 Group of seven (6)
- 18 African republic (5)
- 20 Insult (4)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Now; 3 Say; 5 Gents; 8 Thief; 9 Leaving; 10 Data; 11 Movement; 13 Annual; 14 Buried; 17 Subjects; 19 Clap; 22 Rooster; 23 Sleep; 24 Aimed; 25 Bad; 26 Spy.
Down: 1 Nosed; 2 Written; 3 Sole; 4 Yellow; 5 Grateful; 6 Noise; 7 Sighted; 12 Tarnished; 13 Austria; 15 Illness; 16 Stores; 18 Bloom; 20 Puppy; 21 Used.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

KAFTANS,
COTTONS, AND
QUIET POWER!



Scan the QR to know more





YSL'S NEW RANGE OF LIPSTICK LAUNCHED AT NYKAA LUXE ON PARK STREET. t2 WAS THERE

Ten bold shades by Yves Saint Laurent hit the shelves of Nykaa Luxe, Park Street, on May 2. The launch which saw The Inks line of lipsticks debut in Calcutta, was hosted by fashionista Davina Thacker and Prerna Jalan. A bunch of chic Calcuttans came by to swatch, sip, and shop t2 dropped by.



Hosts Davina Thacker and Prerna Jalan at the YSL x Nykaa event. Davina, in a vibrant printed co-ord set, and Prerna in sculptural black with gold accents, were dressed for the event. "YSL is one of my favourite brands. I love their bags, lipsticks, everything. This new launch is fierce and bold, just like me," smiled Davina. Prerna loved its "high-quality payoff and wearable shades."

Beauty enthusiasts from across the city browsed shelves, swatched shades on their hands, and exchanged favourites as Alok Sharma, YSL India's education manager, conducted two live masterclasses. His top tip was "start your foundation from the centre of the face and blend outwards."

Jyotee Khaitan stopped by to celebrate the launch of YSL's new lipstick line. "I love it! I'm wearing it right now and can't wait to wear more of it," said the designer, her fresh Nykaa haul, her arm candy!



Neha Gandhi Binjra was smart in a crisp black-and-white look and a Prada bag.



Fashion designer Deepika Agarwal stood out in a vibrant blue dress and statement red loafers. "I'm loving being at the event today at Nykaa for the YSL launch. It's as vibrant as the hostess (Davina) herself," she said. "I picked up the shade Blush Connection from the collection, and I love it!"

Nekita Bhalla was all smiles as she posed with her pick of the day — YSL perfume!



Riddhima Chawla brought an extra dose of warmth with her adorable son by her side, who lit up the room with his wide-eyed smile. "It was a shopping date with my four-year-old! Since Mother's Day is around the corner, he wanted me to buy myself a gift, and what's better than the YSL The Inks... fab, smooth!" she shared.

"I am a very lipstick person, so I was keen on checking this range from YSL, who are known for their beauty products, and I must say I wasn't disappointed," said Nikita Agarwal.

Anoushka Kundu (t2 intern)
Pictures: Pabitra Das



Simran Kaur Walia (right), praised the long-stay matte and glossy options while Jyoti Luthra enjoyed the workshop. "I enjoyed the session on make-up tips and also meeting so many women and chit-chatting with them!" said Jyoti.



We loved Gitanjali Agarwal's eclectic street style at the event. Her picks from the brand? Lip shades and perfumes!



Khushboo Chokhani checked out the new YSL Inks at Nykaa Luxe and "loved how it didn't dry the lips".



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SUNDAY OPEN

t2
TALK

FILMS WITH ACTORS IN DUAL ROLES THAT YOU LOVE

Shah Rukh Khan in *Jawan*

Among the films featuring double roles in recent times, my favourite is the Sauvik Kundu-directed science-fiction Bengali action-comedy *Boomerang*. Jeet as a scientist, Dr. Samar Sen and the andro-humanoid clone robot Amar, and Rukmini Maltra as Samar's wife Isha Sen and a robot Nisha, played their respective double roles with much conviction and élan. (Which is your favourite film/series featuring a double role in recent times?... October 29)

Kajal Chatterjee

Charlie Chaplin made an audacious doppelgänger film that served as a condemnation of fascism and the horrific Nazi German regime. Chaplin plays both lead roles, of a dictator who rises to power and of the Jewish barber. The result is a terrifically funny comedy of errors but one with blazingly furious messaging about the importance of standing against injustice. In the dual role, Chaplin does some of his best work, particularly in a poignant ending monologue that proved he was an acting icon beyond

the era of silent films.

Srijan Mukherjee

Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster *Jawan* stands out as my favourite film featuring a double role in recent times. This intensely engrossing action thriller unleashes a fantastic blend of electrifying excitement and thought-provoking exploration of pressing issues with sensitivity and sensibility. Shah Rukh Khan as the protagonist Vikram Rathore and his father Azad Rathore meticulously embodied the striking traits of his well-written characters, emphasising on core values such as compassion, empathy and awareness with unwavering conviction.

As soldiers, they displayed unyielding determination, advocating tirelessly for the marginalised and the wronged. They boldly challenged our corrupt system with hard-hitting queries, exposing its deep-rooted injustices and instilling a spirit of enquiry among the audience. While Shah Rukh illuminated the screen with his magnetic charm, his leading ladies remarkably matched his verve, augmenting the ensemble performance to perfection. Every element, ranging from witty one-liners to its impactful finale, was adeptly crafted, and culminated in an intellectually stimulating cinematic experience.

Special shout-out to director Atlee and music composer Anirudh Ravichander for delivering a chart-

topping music album.

Aayman Anwar Ali

There are a few movies which I like most but among them I preferred *Gemini Man* which I saw today. This was a very entertaining movie and had me glued from start to finish. Will Smith as the assassin Henry Brogan did an amazing job. The younger Will threw me off a little at first because we have been watching his older self for so long, but it was awesome. The computer-generated version took a few scenes to get used to but it was still amazing. Not sure why the critics gave it such a poor review. Great family movie, definitely would watch it again. The action scenes are captivating and watching Will pursue himself was something I never thought I'd wanted to see. Definitely would recommend it to those who like fast-paced action movies.

Debojit Swamaker

My favourite film featuring a double role in recent times, no doubt, is the intriguing and gripping Netflix mystery-thriller *Do Patti*, whose story revolves around twin sisters named Saumya and Shalee. Kriti Sanon played the dual role and delivered a power-packed, emotionally-charged and captivating performance. She shone in both roles and truly stole the limelight. The way the Bollywood actress portrayed the characters of the two sisters, who are poles apart in personality, was just fantastic and praiseworthy.

Sourish Mitra

My favourite film set in 1947 is Ritwik Ghatak's classic titled *Meghe Dhaka Tara*. When the rest of India was joyfully celebrating the Independence of the country, millions of Bengalis (as well as Punjabis) suddenly found themselves 'alien' in the land owned by their ancestors for generations. Their world turned upside down with many of their family members ruthlessly murdered by communal elements. The ones who were lucky to escape the butchery fled their land and managed to reach and barely survive in what is now known as West Bengal. Bereft of shelter, resources and livelihood, the plight of these refugees was heartbreaking.

Meghe Dhaka Tara focuses on one such unfortunate family whose members had to sacrifice everything so that India could turn independent. The daily toil, struggle and sacrifice of the young refugee girl Nita (Supriya Choudhury) to survive

YOUR FAVOURITE FILM BASED ON INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

against all odds and somehow sustain herself and her larger family with dignity, was heartrending. Her sincerity and honesty through all her troubles made the film all the more poignant. It also provided a lesson of sorts on the kind of hatred and horror that communalism can unleash on humanity. (Which is your favourite film/series set in 1947... November 8)

Kajal Chatterjee

Year 1947 is an unforgettable watershed for each and every Indian. After a long struggle, the country was finally liberated from British rule. And from this perspective I would like to talk about a film named *Gandhi*, starring Ben Kingsley in the titular role.

The film offers an authentic

Anil Chatterjee and Supriya Choudhury in *Meghe Dhaka Tara*

representation of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. At the 55th Academy Awards in 1983, this movie won eight Oscar awards from 11 nominations, with multiple nominations in many other award ceremonies held that year. Watching *Gandhi*, I felt proud to be an Indian and have someone of his stature as my fellow countryman. A must-watch

for today's generation who have little knowledge of the stories of India's independence struggle.

Mahatma Gandhi is depicted in the film as a great modern pantheistic prophet, but the camera does not shy away from revealing moments of possible colossal vanity that only paint him as human, just like the rest of us.

Debojit Swamaker

My favourite film set in 1947 is Deepa Mehta's 1998 movie *Earth*. The masterpiece was based on a novel named *Cracking India*, written by Bapsi Sidhwa. Starring Aamir Khan, Rahul Khanna, Nandita Das and Shabana Azmi, this fine period drama on friendship, love and heartbreak during the Partition of India in 1947 was our country's entry for the 1999 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. It received the top honour that year at the Asian Film Festival.

What I like the most about this film is the way the ace film-maker gave the Partition theme a human touch in its storyline. Aamir, Rahul and Nandita were splendid, their characterisations so real and so memorable. All three delivered fantastic performances. I also love the film's songs. The tracks, which are composed by legendary music director A.R. Rahman and written by another legend Javed Akhtar, were very melodious. My fave number from the movie is *Rut aa gayee re*.

Sourish Mitra